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GMA gets the 'blues' after dinner for South Koreans

By Cil C. Cabunoguan Jr.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Zuce draws new fire

Ex-Palace aide denies memo on delivering 'electoral pleasure'

By Dona Pazzibugan and Norman Bordadora

ESCORTED by a phalanx of police officers, former Malacañang executive Dato Ahmad Bayan yesterday tried to shoot down the testimony of presidential whistle-blower Michaelangelo Zuce.

"The statements are of complimentary false and designed by him to bring down the present administration and to save the reputations and the lives of persons who have consistently served this country," he said.

Bayan, who was ordered to return to the office of former presidential liaison officer to political affairs Jose Ella Xavier, also denied he had ordered to Malacañang the appointment of the undersecretary, Virgilio Garcillano as an election consultant.

That endorsement memo, dated Oct. 11, 2002 and under Bayan's name, said in part, "Since the 1992 elections, Mr. Garcillano has been so instrumental in securing and protecting the interest of [ruling] KBL[P]-[NPC]. You [Ermita] particularly in Mindanao and [will] avoid every election pleasure of the administration."

Bayan was escorted to the press conference by [illegible] police officers led by Senior Supt. Ardot Ibrahim, chief of the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group for the National Capital Region.

Although he arrived at the Bayleaves Hotel in Pasig City with three, Bayan

WHAT'S BEHIND THIS PICTURE? A picture-taque, voice-swept tropical locale spin-control signals a huge billboard along the Bayleaves advertising our sun n' fun city's alluring attractions makes access for Manila, no matter if under the weather on Saturday, as a coastal destination is evidently to be wished for. But wish all you look behind the scene. Please turn to Page A6.

Fireflies as hope, other gems according to Roco

By Michael Lim Ubac

4 students prove youth is not wasted on the young

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

Party-list votes in ARMM puzzled even Garci

By Jerry E. Esplanada

HOTSPOTS. ARMM province where voting civil in the 2004 election the registered voters are "perennial problems" of the Comelec. An employee of the poll body in Sultan Kudarat, Nomin Cluth, studies on the heads of voters.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2005

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

GMA visits dengue 'ground zero'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Jerome Aning

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday marooned in Sitio San Roque in Barangay Pag-asa, Quezon City, to condole with families who lost children to dengue.

The President spent 45 minutes in the area where at least 8 children succumbed to the mosquito-borne disease last week.

She attended a roadside funeral of one of the victims spending roughly 15 minutes comforting the parents, friends and kins of 5-year-old Therese Jane "Bhoots" Refugio, the latest to die from dengue in Quezon City.

Barangay Pag-asa is considered dengue "ground zero" in Quezon City with 84 cases and 11 deaths reported so far this year.

Mrs. Arroyo, also QC lawmaker, was reported dengue-stricken between 1986, 1990 to 1992, 1995, 1997, and 2004, Bayan and Tandang Sora with 10 each.

The President on Friday ordered the Department of Health to mobilize clouds with local government units to stop the spread of dengue which has claimed 143 fatalities nationwide so far this year.

The President was accompanied by Health Secretary Francisco Duque III who briefed her on the preventive measures and information drive being undertaken by QC health officials such as fumigation and getting rid of breeding sites and other active communications.

Duque said the Typhoon Haitang is dengue-seen nationwide this year to 10,977 in the first 7 months from 20,127 a year ago "you are yet of epidemic proportion."

"But we don't need the action of 42 communities to destroy all mosquitoes carrying dengue," said Duque, who encouraged the public to practice the "4 o'clock habit" of draining bad water-standings at that time of day when the mosquitoes most active.

He said the DOH was closely coordinating with local government officials to stop the spread of the disease.

"The DOH is amending its information drive on the importance of draining stagnant water which mosquitoes need to breed, keeping surroundings clean and 'Monday is only signs of dengue," Duque said.

While cleaning, the breeding places of mosquitoes such as tires cases and stored water including those in the cans, bottles and old tires, should be eradicated.

Duque added the early detection of dengue symptoms such as high fever, rashes, severe headaches, stomach, nosebleeds, joint pain, eye, muscle and joint pains would prevent deaths.

Dengue is caused by day biting mosquitoes, particularly the aedes aegypti type, and is common in tropical countries with rains or the disease usually rises during the rainy season.

The fatal dengue fevers dengue fever, an acute infectious viral disease, affects infants and young children.

Federalism pros, cons explained

By Vick Cosmeros

CHARTER change proponents, listen up.

There are basic "pros and cons" to weigh when a country considers adopting a federal form of government, according to a Washington-based professor.

Federalism allows a country to "accommodate the diversity of its people" by passing laws and adopting policies that differ from state to state along religious, ethnic or cultural lines, according to Dr. Eric Langenbacher of Georgetown University.

In the United States, for example, he said, states can have different laws on gay marriage, the death penalty, education and other social issues. Langenbacher recently addressed some journalists on a visit to Washington, D.C.

A potential drawback, however, is that states can set different tax rates or tax incentives to lure investors in from overseas, Langenbacher said.

That could lead to what he called a "race to the bottom," where a country's total revenue collection could drop as its individual states "compete" with each other to lower their taxes.

"Market forces were dictating independent tax decisions. Companies will consider relocating to states with lower taxes or bigger tax breaks," Langenbacher said.

Another advantage of federalism is that states could "experiment" with policies at the local level and "successful state strategies can get adopted" on a national scale, he said.

California, for instance, has set the highest standards for vehicle emission levels in the US, compelling car companies to produce environment-friendly models whose compliance is that "they meet California standards" even though they are sold outside the state.

A federalized government is also supposed to deliver public services more efficiently, said Langenbacher, since "unless you bring the decision-making process close to the people, the voice [it is for] there needs to be [a] voice considered."

No quarter for tax cheats

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has vowed to prosecute 29 tax evaders under the government's Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program even after they shell out what they owe the government in the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

This was announced by Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño in the light of a proposal by new BIR Commissioner Jose Mario C. Buñag to drop the uncompromise policy of the BIR and allow unpaid tax evaders to settle their tax obligation to escape criminal prosecution.

"As long as the tax cases are with the BIR, they are at the discretion of the BIR; the assessment they are filed with us the DOJ, they are dead the preliminary investigation. If we find probable cause, we will file the cases before the Board of Tax Appeals. We will proceed with the prosecution of tax cases," Zuño said.

But he said that they would need the full cooperation of BIR on witnesses and documentary to strengthen the 29 RATE cases and to affirm the facts of the complaints.

"With respect to the possible payment by the accused of the cases due the government, as long as the BIR, the witnesses and the documents will appear with the prosecution, we will continue the prosecution before the court of tax appeals," said Zuño.

Senior Assistant State Prosecutor said Zuño earlier blamed the delay in filing the RATE cases before the Board of Tax Appeals on the alleged haphazard filing of the complaints and on the failure of BIR witnesses and witnesses to support during the preliminary hearings on the cases.

Zuño said they may soon filing the complaints before the tax appeals board this week.

— Jerome A.S. Visaya

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendrez

Tams rip Maroons for sweep

PAUL Alvin Pierre and RJ Ricafort of FEU battle Marcio Cruz of UP for possession of the basket.

By Jeannie W. Paya

THERE'S still no matching the solid play of the Far Eastern Tamaraws.

Brilliant all game, the Tamaraws trampled over the University of the Philippines Maroons, 75-67, yesterday to complete a sweep of the UAAP senior basketball tournament's first round at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Far Eastern veterans were dominant the entire game, with Mark Isip leading the charge with 18 points and some rebounds and Arvind Juneco adding 16 points, nine rebounds and five blocks.

"They were very aggressive," said FEU coach Nat Perez of the Maroons. "We didn't expect the sweep, but this team has good seasoned. We just have to continue working hard in the second round."

Ateneo, defending champion La Salle swamped up its schedule with a 4-0 record after demolishing the National Bulldogs, 91-70.

Joseph Yeo chanted out his best offensive game this season, delivering 30 points on top of eight rebounds and five steals.

"I'm quite satisfied with where we are now," said La Salle coach Ryan Pumaren. "It will be crucial in the second round, but we're still positive."

Last year, the Archers also took a 4-0 start into the second round before sweeping their remaining assignments and conquering the Tamaraws, 2-1, in the Finals.

The Bulldogs remained winless in seven games and all but bowed out of Final Four contention.

The Maroons, who fell into the arch the Archers, pulled within 10-8 with 6:36 in the fourth period.

But Eastern also closed out the first round kicking high school play after the Rabbi Tamaraws topped the Junior Maroons, 80-75, for a 6-1 record. The Bengals blasted the Bullpups, 97-45, for a 5-2 mark.

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NEW PBA POLICY

Aces dropping excess Fil-fors

ALVAREZ

By Jane Navarro

ALAMO has started to lean in some under a new league policy limiting orchestrate to only five foreign-bred players in the coming 2005-2006 Philippine Basketball Association season.

While the Aces got Tuns delo Cruz from Shell, they released Rich Chan and Eugene Tejada in return in a refreshened deal last week that also saw 2005 Rookie of the Year and Talk'n Text import Rich Alvarez joining Alaska.

Alvarez dropped way under-achieving point guard Bob Johnson, leaving Bobi Cruz, Brian Cadiz, Elder Cuntee, Jeffrey Cuntee, Jason Timm and Willie Wilson as the remaining Alaska foreign players in the Alaska roster.

Alaska team manager Joaquin Trillo said Wilson would neither be traded or re-signed to a new contract.

"He's (Wilson) no good a player to be on the reserved list. The coaching staff will definitely have a hard time thinking about the team's options on Wilson," said Trillo.

Two teams are interested in getting the services of the 6-foot-5 former Jet La Salle enforcer if Alaska decides to make him a free agent.

"There are two teams which are showing interest in him," said Trillo. League sources said the two teams are Talk 'N Text and Red Bull Barako.

The Aces will select sixth and 13th overall in the rookie draft on Aug. 14 at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall in Cainta, Rizal.

But Trillo said the team is more inclined to look at filling their roster from the free agents' market. The Aces are also not discounting a possible reunion with some of Alaska's players who helped Coller beat their ex-mates twice in the 90s.

Trillo said the Aces is still open to former Alaska players Fred Jones, Bryan Uichol and Kenneth Duremdes depending on the needs of the team.

Mav isang paraiso.

Ito ang pamana ninuno. Ito ang pinakamaunlad pamayanan sa buong mundo. Hihik sa lahat ng panahon.

Pinakamalaking makinang at ng bus at pinakamalaki. Pinakamalaking ganid. Pinakamalaking gate. Pinakamalaki sa ilalim ng Philippine lights, at pinakamahil sa ilalim ng mainsigit Philippine rainmont. Pinakamalaking parole. Pinakamalaking pag-ibig. Pinakamalaki sa pandit Golden-crowned Flying Fox at pinakamalit sa kasawalan ng uno. Pinakamalaki sa Philippine Deer. Nasito rito ang isa sa pinakamalaking kabahalat Pilipino. Pinakamalaki sa Philippine Deer. Nasito rito ang isa sa pinakamalaking kabahalat Pilipino. Pinakamalaki at pinakamalaki sa pinakamalaki sa pinakamalaki sa

4 students prove youth is not wasted on the young

From page A1

With the new technology of using rice hull ash as a cement extender, the community not only solved the problem of waste management but also cut the cost of construction materials.

The two-week training session started in February.

The trainees have since been contracted by the Gawad Kalinga Foundation to mass-produce the hollow blocks for use in its housing projects.

"The people in the community are now enjoying a significant increase in their income by producing and marketing their own blocks," team leader Gerusea proudly said.

Fattening crabs

A similar boost to income was seen in Labuk, which takes a role of about 30 minutes from Tacurong on rough roads.

Here the intrepid team taught the coastal community to fatten mud crabs (alimango) and mud-clam to supplement its income from raising fish in ponds.

Only 22 days are needed to fatten crabs, compared with two-three months to cultivate fish.

Because the community now directly serves tangible markets for their products, they were able to do away with middlemen—thus raising their selling price.

They also solved the problem of the mud crabs feeding on clamplings and destroying fishpens.

Gerusea reported that the community members had raised their income by as much as 60 percent through their new skill.

Teaching

In April, the team was awarded a $10,000 grant by ASHOC Philippines to conduct a financial literacy training workshop for the Ilocanos and Ifugaos women living in the Gawad Kalinga community of Pasadena Quezon.

The set-of-school youth were taught financial planning and management to grow their lean sum of making gift chips. Pedrosonoh were brought in to provide the basics of accounting and financial statistic, as well as marketing.

The Ifugao women were encouraged to improve the marketing and packaging of their handicrafts and woven fabrics, such as the Tinalak, to get a higher price for their hard labor.

"There is plenty of optimism that this financial literacy program will create new opportunities for the learners and, in the end, uplift their plight," Gerusea said.

It is because of that optimism that 1SHC Philippines is committed to continue helping life in its projects in this country under the global HSBC Financial Literacy Program.

The program undertaken by the HSBC Education Trust and its Corporate and Investment Banking Markets division promotes financial literacy, with emphasis on young people and students.

2nd largest participant

According to HSBC CEO Warren Manning, 11 of the 300 projects worldwide that had been granted funds were composed of Filipino students, making the Philippines the second largest participant after the United States.

"Financial literacy is a fundamental skill that empowers people and enables them to achieve the human dignity they deserve, by ensuring in financial literacy education, we seek to build the confidence and ability of young people to achieve economic and employment the future of business will depend," Manning said.

Filmilia Rose A. Diocares, vice president for Marketing of HSBC Philippines, said this was the answer to the prayers of many of these communities.

Volunteerism

Gerusea said that apart from the boost, the chance to experience the Philippines in the Olympics further fanned the flame of volunteerism in their hearts.

The team is now hard at work at providing early childhood education in various communities in Subic Bay.

In cooperation with the staff members of the Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao Preserving Education Across Cultural Enhancement Program, it has enabled more than 500 Tidung, Manobo and Muslim students to read polysyllabic words, write their own names, count from 1 to 100 and add and subtract multiple numbers.

Trainers said he and his colleagues were doing these services on their own time because they had found fulfillment in helping others.

He said volunteering was easily all they could do because they had no money to give as the area's poorest people around them.

"We are poor, but we have other blessings from God. That is our capital," he said.

Party-list votes in ARMM ...

From page A1

party-list here.

In Basilan, the top vote-getters were Bantu Bangsamoro Dhamai, which received 38,611 votes, Bantuhan Association for National Advancement and Transparency (Banat) with 36,716 votes, and Samahan ng mga Manguguhalad para sa Ikauunlad ng Lokal na Ekonomiya (Simbi), 22,102 votes.

Widespread fraud

Lanao del Sur had only 271,011 registered voters but its total votes cast for party-list in that province totaled 277,027, an excess of nearly 7,000 votes. The Ifugao report a voter turnout of more than 100 percent.

Of the 60 party-list candidates, a group called Abo—Ang Lahat ng Indigenong Filipino—topped the Lanao del Sur tally with 119,969 votes, about 40 percent of total votes cast.

"Most cities being formal districts, these manifest scores are so provoking early-childhood education Fund and massive cheating that was done in these areas," said the party-list Citizens' Battle Against Corruption or Cibac.

Cibac had petitioned the Comelec to exclude the Certificates of Canvass (COCs) and Statements of Votes (SOVs) from Lanao del Sur and two other ARMM provinces—Maguindanao and Tawi-Tawi—from the final canvass of votes.

It also asked the poll body to institute criminal proceedings against Comelec personnel who had taken part in irregularities in those areas.

No Comelec ruling yet

According to Cibac, COCs and SOVs from the three provinces contained not only manifest errors and omissions but "more importantly, statistical improbabilities that must not be overlooked by the National Board of Canvassers."

Add to that the fact that some party-list had lower "victims of digging losses" and even buying which some Comelec people openly talk about," said Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales.

More than a year after the last national polls, the Comelec has yet to decide on the petitions filed by Cibac and other party-lists.

"It's evident party-list concerns are not prioritized and always preside by the Comelec," Rosales observed.

Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos, however, said otherwise.

Abalos stood alleged poll irregularities and "illegal maneuvers" by party-list candidates or canvass for the delay in the final canvassing of party-list votes.

Election related irregularities, Comelec Commissioner Rufino Sedorio said, "may bring about the possibility of holding special elections in some areas."

At least three party-list groups have assailed the incomplete canvass as the "biggest obstacle" that hinders additional nominees of winning party-list groups from being proclaimed and taking their place in the House of Representatives.

Abalos promise

Abalos, they claimed, had promised a "speedy canvassing" that would end in him for the President's State of the Nation Address on July 25.

In an earlier interview, Abalos told this reporter the National Board of Canvassers was "still canvassing some votes."

Of the 13.6 million partial and official votes cast for 1st of June 2004, the following party-lists had received the required 2 percent which entitles them to a seat in the House of Representatives:

1) Bayan Muna (1,202,237, 9.22 percent, 3 seats);

2) Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (933,356, 7.29 percent, 3 seats);

3) Akbayan (849,301, 6.71 percent, 3 seats);

4) Sanlog Kayaan Tumulong (765,275, 5.58 percent, 2 seats);

5) Anakpawis (538,108, 4.26 percent, 2 seats);

6) Cibac (492,946, 3.9 percent, 1 seat);

7) Gabriela (462,021, 3.66 percent, 1 seat);

8) Bethle ng Manggagawa (447,908, 3.54 percent, 1 seat);

9) Buhl Farmers Party (429,197, 3.39 percent, 1 seat);

10) Alliance of Volunteers Educators (343,377, 2.71 percent, 1 seat);

11) Ahgad (340,000, 2.7 percent, 1 seat);

12) Veterans Freedom Party (340,277, 2.69 percent, 1 seat);

13) Cooperative Natcco Network Party (278,913, 2.16 percent, 1 seat);

14) An Waray (268,878, 2.12 percent, 1 seat); and,

15) 1Ti Ami Mindanao (266,333, 2.11 percent, 1 seat).

Statistically improbable

The Bhgsdefense SOV showed the province had 334,551 registered voters.

But votes cast for party-list lists there totaled 283,012, a very high turnout of 84.61 percent. Again, it was "way above the national average of only 36 percent," Cibac pointed out.

In Metro Manila, they averaged only 52 percent. Those in the Visayas were even lower, averaging only 35 percent.

In the case of Tawi-Tawi, Cibac said it was "statistically improbable that 63.4 percent of the province's 132,852 registered voters would cast their votes for party-list groups, when the national average was only around 36 percent."

Clearly, the COCs and SOVs from Bhgsdefense, Lanao del Sur and Tawi-Tawi had been compared with, Cibac asserted.

In its complaint, the group said it was "obvious that the votes cast were audibly skewed to only a handful of party-list organizations."

It said: "The top 10 party-list alone garnered 2,96,831 votes, representing 66.17 percent of the total number of votes cast and 98.4 percent of the total number of registered voters.

(To be concluded)

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Beleaguered LRT Beleaguered Future
The Herald, Saint Benilde College
Outstanding Feature Story on Youth and Education in a School Organ

Eden Estipona
Sun-messaging for the Blind: Visually Ubiquitous
Reporter, Educator, The Philippine Star
Outstanding Feature Story on De La Salle University–Manila

Joma: Informal talks still on

By Dona Pazdelaugas

NATIONAL Democratic Front of the Philippines chief political consultant Jose Ma. Sison said yesterday that talks between rebels with the government had been suspended, informal negotiations were still going on.

The exiled communist leader thus warned the government against scrapping members of the coordinated negotiation panel covered by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG), which the government has suspended effective next month.

Rene Saguisag, head of the government peace negotiating panel, said yesterday that the JASIG with the communist negotiators, could be extended.

"It (the peace process) can be lifted any time as we have done in the past if they will show a genuine of sincerity by commencing with us (but they're open to the peace talks within the 30-day grace period," he insisted.

Under the JASIG accord, 97 negotiators and support staff of the NDFP had immunity from arrest and could roam freely even while their guerrilla unit, the New People's Army (NPA), was battling government forces.

In a statement from the Netherlands, Sison said the NDFP merely "postponed" the formal suspension but did not withdraw from it.

"The (informal) relation between the NDFP postponement of formal talks of the negotiating panels on the one hand, and the continuity of the peace negotiations in accordance with the JASIG on the other, is important because even when the formal talks are postponed there is still some work that is being done in the peace negotiations," Sison said.

"The negotiating panels and their consultants, advisers and staffers continue to work," he added, citing the joint working committees, the joint monitoring committee and the joint secretariat on the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

He stressed that the JASIG remained in force and could not be suspended unilaterally by either party.

Sison warned the government against harming members of their panel once the government considers the JASIG "suspended" by next month.

"Those who are actually used threatened with abduction and murder-for-hire by the government as the NDFP-nominated consultants, advisers, staffers, researchers and other volunteers who do not belong to any NDFP organizations and who are legally residing in Manila and elsewhere in the Philippines," Sison said.

Perla Dalfin T. Abdilet Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and AFP

Korea to invest $1.85B in RP

THE GMA/RP is expecting some $1.85 billion in new investments from South Korea, Malacañang announced yesterday following the visit of South Korean Prime Minister Lee Hoe-chun.

Lee, who met with President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday, also discussed "security as well as trade issues" with her, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said without elaboration.

Ms Arroyo said in a statement that the Hanjin group of South Korea was established in the Philippines," Bunye said.

"Those who are actually used threatened with abduction and murder-for-hire by the government as the NDFP-nominated consultants, advisers, staffers, researchers and other volunteers who do not belong to any NDFP organizations and who are legally residing in Manila and elsewhere in the Philippines," Sison said.

Perla Dalfin T. Abdilet Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and AFP

Korea was responsible for providing electricity to some 300 households in Mindanao nationwide and is committed to bringing electricity to 2,000 more communities.

Ms Arroyo considered that South Korean had become one of the top foreign tourists to the country with 400,000 arriving last year and about half a million expected this year.

"Economic relations between our two countries have never been better," Arroyo told Lee during his stopover in the country on his way back from the funeral of King Fahd in Saudi Arabia.

Malacañang said the large South Korean investments in the country showed that the business climate was still good despite the political storm over supposedly illegal wiretaps by the Arroyo administration of election fraud.

AFP

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	Serving Size	Fiber (g)
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Banana	1 medium	.80
Orange	1 medium	1.80
Mango	1 medium	.60
Papaya	1/2 cup	.20
Pineapple	1/2 cup	.80
Broccoli	1/2 cup	1.60
Cabbage	1/2 cup	0.80
Carrots	1/2 cup	.90
Corn Kernels	1/2 cup	1.00
Grapefruit	1/2 cup	.20
Green Beans	1/2 cup	.10
Lettuce	1/2 cup	0.80
Tomato	1 small	.80
TOTAL		11.80

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Fireflies as hope, other gems according to Roco

Front page 6 ▸

joke that he cracked now and then.

He did not talk about his campaign, politics, or any of his foray ideas to dramatically reform the country.

At one point, I consulted with Inquirer photographer Nonoy Hendrikson and boldly approached Roco as he sat on a roundabout chair facing the sea.

"Sir, can we take pictures?" I said, then proceeded to tell him where to pose—on a bike's top, a hammock, etc.

After the "pictorial," Roco said it was the first time in his political career that somebody told him how to sit.

Before noted, I left the blond man in my head. But he passed me on the back, saying, "that's DR."

Like Christmas lights

The following week, the photographs of Roco half lying in the hammock and looking out to sea are in print on Page 1. It accompanied my report on his three-hitching decision to drop out of the campaign and seek medical treatment in the United States.

The prostate cancer that appeared to have been killed had returned.

Much later, Roco admitted to me that he was in pain in Bangkok.

What are the island the night before Maundy Thursday, while we were having dinner, Roco pointed to fireflies clustered around a tree in the front yard.

The fireflies looked like Christmas lights, and I was moved to wonder about their mystical or spiritual significance, if any.

He dashed off a series of explanations that unfortunately slipped past me as I chased after a firefly that seemed to have lost its way.

But something he said stood out: The light of the fireflies symbolized hope, like Aljunas ng Pag-ibig.

Poster boy

Roco was a poster boy for the reform until his ailment overtook him.

During the campaign, the candidate always rode ahead of everyone else, followed by the media contingent.

A month into a grueling run in the Visayas and Mindanao, some members of the media pack began skipping the early stories to reach spots deep.

Roco eventually learned our absence. At one leg, he learned from his running mate Herminio Aquino that the media was nowhere until five or six towns away.

Later over lunch in Baguio, he told us: "I already shook a thousand hands before you guys woke up."

On April 11, 2004, at the airport, as he prepared to board his flight for the United States, he endured my persistent questioning on whether he would return as senatorial campaign.

"Absolutely," he said, later adding: "We will never bid the Filipino people."

Four months, on April 27, he had his spokesperson call to say that he was already in Hong Kong and would be home after seven day.

Good fight

On May 10, 2004, Roco sent his story in his series (Page 2).

Asked whether he could smell victory, he said: "Let the people judge."

He would tell me later that his bad knees "the good fight" and "finished the race."

He flew back to the United States for treatment on May 16. Before taking off, he told the Inquirer: "Yes. You never look back, you're destine to a good flight. It's a good flight if you have the correct reasons."

Hope and honesty

He was back visit, there was still lingering with life and reconciliation but the fight was following.

Vince Cembrano, our leader, later had to cut, failed in," he said shortly after turning a call for President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign, to pass the way for "real" elections.

"The people must decide now. Let the people," he said.

Roco sent a photograph of hope and honesty refusing to bank on the fruit-based political machinery in his quest for the presidency.

In spring marking for the service of poll watchers, saying the people "should learn to guard their votes."

Many say this cost him his candidacy.

Die with a bang

The man is dead but his words live on.

"In politics, you never back away from people who are trying us you. They will never forget you. If you commit suicide, mind if you die with a bang. Just not with a whimper.

"So there it is: leaving back soon. I came home to fight on. The people need a choice. We will find them. We will be there."

This afternoon, in his study room, Roco told the Inquirer: "The circle, the line, never ends."

The line is full of every person it was sure to decide but God's to exhale, he said.

Raul Roco going home tomorrow

By Nancy C. Carvajal

RAUL Roco's friends and supporters in Metro Manila have only today to bid him goodbye.

The remains of the former senator and 2004 presidential candidate now lying in state at the Manila Holy Family Parish church on Balintawak Avenue, Quezon City, will lie there in Iloilo City tomorrow morning, accompanied by his wife Corazon and children.

Roco will be buried on Thursday at the Sto. Niño cemetery beside his father's grave.

That interim his remains will not lie in state at the Senate for the traditional honors.

"It was not his request, but we just want to bring him home," the senator's spokesperson said.

Besides, she said, her husband was "no longer in the government."

Santos said that months earlier, her husband told her and their children that he no longer wanted to be part of politics.

"He wanted to stay home, and he is going home," Bobbit, the senator's eldest son, said this morning.

Bobbit said the family wanted privacy as his father had always treasured his time with his children.

While Roco was a prolific figure most of his life, he shielded his family from the public eye, Bobbit said, adding:

"There is no reason why we are stopping. (But) under circumstances, effort that we want privacy. We have been caught in corporate process from public life."

'Beautiful end'

Sister Rosario Roco, a younger sister of the ex-senator who was with him in his final moments, said he passed away peacefully.

"It was a beautiful end—no struggle, and no pain," she said in a text.

She said her brother recently missed his sons, as though he were about to sleep, a few minutes after listening to the hymn of his patron saint Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

"I pressed a cell phone to his ear and let him listen to the singing of 'Ina de la Ogue,'" she said.

At the other end of the line was another sister who was singing the hymn of Our Lady.

At the wake, Roco's favorite chair, a side table and a reading lamp were beside the casket.

On top of the table were a name-

plate and his 2001 calling to senatorship.

Among those spotted at the wake yesterday were Vice President Noli de Castro, Senator Francisco Ferdinand Enrile, Senator Juan Ponce Enrile and Sen. Ramon Revilla, Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senators Juan Miguel Zubiri and Mar Roxas, Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin, former Sen. Aquilino Salonga, and former Sen. Leticia Ramos Shahani, whose husband brought the presidency in 1998.

Yet another mourners, Raquel Gaspar, said she could never repay Roco for his generosity.

"I was one of the scholars of Senator Roco at Philippine Normal University and I just want to express my appreciation to the family," Gaspar said, weeping.

She said Roco's words about 18 of them attended by the school for the scholarships.

"He said that's what I'm doing at the PNU," she said.

'A great man'

In Cebu, Leyte and Negros Occidental, Roco's friends and supporters remained busy.

"I feel bad that we lost a great man, but I am proud I stuck with him to the end," said Roco's vice presidential candidate for the presidency then," said Victor Ruiz, Negros Occidental provincial campaign and youth coordinator of the Roco for President Movement in Bacolod.

Ruiz and Bacolod Rep. Evelio B. Leonardia, Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Virador, Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño, Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza, Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran, Partido ng Manggagawa Rep. Rene Magtubo, Buhay Rep. Lito Atienza, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, Akbayan Rep. Mark Villar, Bayan Muna Rep. Rafael Mariano, Gabriela Rep. Luzviminda Ilagan, Anakpawis Rep. Ariel Casilao, Partido ng Manggagawa Rep. Walden Bello

The WORLD

Edited by Lucrecia R. Kasilag

Hiroshima remembers victims of atomic blast 60 years ago

HIROSHIMA—Tens of thousands of people from around the world gathered in Hiroshima on Saturday to mark the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the city and to renew calls for the abolition of nuclear arms.

The anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing comes as regional powers continue talks in Beijing to urge North Korea to give up its nuclear program, seen by Tokyo as a threat and one of the reasons behind rising calls in Japan to strengthen its defenses and seek closer military ties with the United States.

Under a blazing summer sun, survivors and families of victims assembled at the Peace Memorial Park near "ground zero," the spot where the bomb detonated on Aug. 6, 1945, killing thousands and leveling the city.

Dignitaries including Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi attended the ceremony in Hiroshima, some 690 kilometers west of Tokyo.

At 8:15 a.m., the time when the U.S. B-29 superplane Enola Gay dropped the bomb, people at the park and throughout the city observed a minute's silence in memory of those who perished.

Bells at temples and churches rang and participants in the ceremony from near and far throughout the city bowed their heads in remembrance of the dead, including those tormented by the bomb 60 years ago and still reeling the survivors.

"This day, 6 ... at 8 a.m. of inhumanism, of awakening, and of remembrance, in solidarity we inherit the commitment of the bomb victims to the abolition of nuclear weapons and realization of genuine world peace," Hiroshima mayor Tadatoshi Akiba told the gathering.

Akiba earlier in Peace Declaration that the five established nuclear powers—the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China—as well as India, Pakistan and North Korea were "jeopardizing human survival." The Hiroshima bomb unleashed a rain of deathmakers, heat rays and radiation that killed thousands instantly. By the end of 1945 the toll had risen to some 140,000 out of an estimated population of 350,000. Thousands more died of burns and injuries later.

On Aug. 9, 1945, three days after the Hiroshima attack, another atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, bringing to an end the military aggression that had originated in its country into World War Two.

Yohei Kono, the speaker of parliament's lower house, said the ceremony on Saturday should serve as a reminder for Japanese to remain in talks with its neighbors as well as for the world not to use nuclear weapons again. Reuters

JAPANESE Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in front of a cenotaph dedicated to Hiroshima A-bomb victims Aug. 6.

Russia races to save crew of trapped sub

MOSCOW—Russia's Navy swore on Saturday to rescue seven crewmembers trapped 190 meters below the surface before their air runs out.

The mini-submarine, itself a rescue vessel, was to straddle an underwater hatch on a propeller guard entangled in fishing nets and an antenna per hundred during a military exercise off the Kamchatka peninsula on Russia's Pacific Coast, the Navy said.

Rescuers tried to drag the AS-28 mini-submarine closer in shallow waters, but anchors and a large antenna hindered the plan more than 48 hours after the submarine snagged in deep waters, Navy officials said.

"We secured it 140 meters seaward the coast but the operation is not sufficient," said Admiral Viktor Pepelayev, commander of the Pacific fleet, the Interfax news agency reported.

Rescuers will now try to cut the antenna and anchors from the submarine, Pepelayev said.

The crew are in a "satisfactory condition" and are trying to conserve oxygen by keeping movement to a minimum, Navy officials told Reuters.

As Russia's Navy raced to save the crew, ranks from Britain and the United States were refilling submersibles and specialists to the zone.

Though much smaller in scale, the accident had echoes of the disaster involving the Kursk nuclear submarine almost exactly five years ago.

President Vladimir Putin faced criticism for his slow response to the Kursk's sinking, which illustrated the post-Soviet decline of Russia's submarine fleet and the failure of top officials to cope with a crisis. Reuters

Blair bares sweeping antiterror measures

LONDON—Prime Minister Tony Blair announced Friday a sweeping range of new powers to combat terrorism following the London bombings, warning hardline clerics in the country that "the rules of the game are changing."

A crackdown likely also responded furiously to al Qaida statements justifying the attacks, the first of which killed 52 innocent people, as a response to the conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan, labelling this argument an "obscenity."

Speaking at his final Downing Street news conference before an imminent summer break, Blair unveiled around a dozen proposals to crack down on radical Muslim clerics who advocate terrorism or hatred.

"Let no one be in any doubt that the rules of the game are changing," a stern Blair warned.

"Coming to Britain is not a right and even asylum seekers from some wars, fearing their return with it a duty. That duty is to share and support the values that sustain the British way of life." The list of new measures—ranging from an outright ban on two radical Muslim groups to a long list of reasons for which foreign nationals can be ejected from Britain—drew a mixed initial response.

While moderate British Muslim groups welcomed much of it, a civil liberties organization condemned as dangerous those to the media that would allow people to be quickly deported to Lebanon and Algeria on the condition they are not tortured.

Among other potentially controversial moves is a possible revision of the 1998 Human Rights Act, which most people in the European Convention on Human Rights into British law, to speed up the deportation of foreign suspects linked to terror. AFP

SC upholds verdict on Bashir

JAKARTA—The Supreme Court upheld a 20-month prison sentence for militant cleric Abu Bakar Bashir for conspiracy in the 2002 Bali nightclub bombings, a court official said Saturday.

Lawyers for Bashir, who organized their appeal to be rejected, argued the United States of was behind in Indonesia's judicial process.

"We deeply regret the Supreme Court's decision," said Mohammad Assegaf. "But the show must go on. ... we believe our defense is innocent. He was not involved in the Bali bombings."

Bashir, the alleged spiritual head of the al Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiyah terror group, was convicted in March for giving his blessing to militants who carried out the attacks that killed 202 people, many of them Australian tourists.

The Jakarta High Court upheld the sentence in May, and Bashir appealed to the Supreme Court, which handed down its ruling in a closed door session Wednesday.

Johnny Hutauk, a spokesperson for South Jakarta District Court, said judges needed several days to publicize their decision to "reject the appeal"—as is common—in Indonesia. He had no further details.

"We believe the United States interfered in this decision," said Assegaf, Bashir's lawyer, adding that his client would seek justice through other channels. AP

The never-ending odyssey of 'Kabise'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Hendrix

In 1967, Agricultural Secretary Tony "Kabise" Pangalangan, a proud son of Dumaran, Romblon, shouldered Pete Rozul's vote for FPJ for P9 million by buying the Tondeuse franchise.

"Tondeuse's striking price then was P6 million," Kabise said. "Pilit ko ang help from Ag Secretary Salud Bautista, the coach-supported former PBA commissioner, we clinched the deal at P6-million."

In its first year in the PBA in 1987, Pete Rozul established a starting line dubbed as the homes of Philippine basketball: Alex Fernandez, Jerry Codiñera, Jojo Lastimosa, Nelson Asoy-aso and Glenn Capacio. The reserves in the team included Freddie Roldan, Jaypee Mendoza, Willie Sarmenta and Rolly Bolejlan, with Boy "Kabayo" Evangelista as manager.

Pete Rozul marched away the All-Filipino every first year.

Pete Rozul looked set to steamroll the 1988 season title in 1987 but, unfortunately the squad, with the mighty Thrillbill at its import, got pulled down by national player strife and eventually lost by one vote the championship.

In 1994, seeking greener pastures of economic pursuits, Kabise left for a consultancy job that brought him to Asian countries.

In 1996, Jaro stationed in Thailand and while attending an "audit" for PVB in Saigon reached by Regalo Advocate (dubbed Vietnam's "Sadie Thing" for owning the first car dealership company there after the Vietnam War), Kabise was qualified for the crucial role for PVB.

"What are you doing here?" PVB asked Kabise. "Go home. I'm sure to appoint Sonny Escudero as agriculture secretary. We might as well be his undersecretary."

Back in his hotel room that night, Kabise received a phone call from Escudero.

"He wanted me back in Manila immediately," said Kabise. "I was just even in a three-star hotel and he was offering me only a two-bedroom. Tsaka Romuald."

As Escudero's undersecretary, Kabise handled food production and disaster operations. He held that position upto when Philtrea Inc (1998) and Kilpatrick Aquaculture (1999) took over.

When Erap appointed Angara his executive secretary in 2000, Kabise became agriculture secretary.

"Secretary Angara and I had our cushy office straightforwards on Feb. 20, 2001," said Kabise.

It was a short-lived stint for both.

On March 20, 2001, both left their positions when Erap bowed to Edsa Dos and fled Malacañang.

Kabise went to the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization in Bangkok not long after, only to be recalled to the agriculture department as an envoy.

On the morning of July 2 this year, Agriculture secretary Arthur Yap had an early breakfast meeting with Kabise. Yap told Kabise he had resigned and has recommended Kabise to GMA as his successor.

"The President wanted me to give three names for her to choose from," Yap told Kabise. "But I told her I only had you in mind."

On July 15, Kabise's appointment as agriculture secretary was announced.

On July 17, a Sunday, Kabise took his oath of office at Malacañang.

On July 18, GMA's office got flooded with telegrams and cellphone calls from all over the archipelago to praise of her move to appoint Kabise agriculture secretary.

"I didn't know you had that many fans nationwide," GMA told Kabise.

Lucy Torres-Gomez, Leyte congresswoman-elect, called Kabise to congratulate him on his appointment as agriculture secretary. "She wants to be his undersecretary."

Kabise, now 68, is the oldest member of the Arroyo Cabinet. He is also the only Cabinet member who has served in the Marcos Cabinet

2-year-old gallopers' series begins today at San Lazaro

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

CAN MANILA'S Smile and Pechanga live up to pre-race expectations?

Both gallopers try to raise their running level a notch higher when they collide with an equally promising cast of 2-year-old rookies at the start of the 2005 Juvenile Championship Series today at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

Manila's Smile is competing in the Juvenile Colts, while Pechanga sees action in the Juvenile Fillies. Although toting the best record of four straight victories going into this afternoon's assignment, Manila's Smile may find the going rough against Dixie the Younger, Don Ezequiel, Golden Number, Key Element and Million Dollar.

An impressive 2-0 start has also earned Pechanga the favorite's tag but Straight Free, Kaligaton, Jet Setter, Erica's Talent and Kat's Magic are all capable of halting her win run.

RACING TIPS

AT SLIP BY MR. EH

Race 1-1. Mr Inner Tube A) 2. Z Vinnetou 3. Cash-back Unknown Heritage
Race 2-1. Randy Dig 2. Patriot 3. Redlight Dixie. Ac-cent 4. Mirrorsmile
Race 3-1. Real Tulip 2. Speed Advantage
Race 4-1. Blue Ho 2. Dixie Digit 3. Lilac Rain 4. Mad Ticket
Race 5-1. Pechanga 2. Kaligaton 3. Straight Free 4. Erica's Talent
Race 6-4. Dakota Magic 2. King Kram 3. Swerve Mucho 4. I'm Wild
Race 7-1. Dixie the Younger 2. Don Ezequiel 3. Maxilite Smith 4. Million Dollar
Race 8-4. Zhenga 2. Valid Harry 3. Security Star Porsche 4. Dixie Messier 5. Super Shelia
Race 9-1. Blazing Weather 2. Southern Charm 3. Blancaflor
Race 10-4. Starlit Lady 2. Can see Will 3. Princess Gillian 4. Quick Pick
Race 11-1. Sweet Felicity 2. Refreshing 3. Mission 4. King Ning Bulan
Race 12-1. Captain's Godfather 2. Mikmyk Order 3. Best O Rest 4. Sleigh Quest
Race 13-1. Dazzling Arthur 2. Super Dixie 3. Ismail Healer 4. Red Bella 5. Speed Abyss

Manila's Smile hit the payoff wire first on three more occasions since breaking his maiden run last June 26 and working out last July 30, breezing through 800 meters in 52.5 seconds.

"Tingin ko kanila na siya (I think he's ready)," said Jeffrey Ladiana, who will guide Manila's Smile in today's 1,400-m trip.

Posing as the biggest stumbling blocks are Dixie the Younger (Khumann-Dixie Cup) and Don Ezequiel (Bench Mark-Belle Epoque).

For Dixie the Younger, it will be a moment to prove that his sweepstakes win was not a fluke. He will also try to bounce back from his recent loss to Don Ezequiel.

The only other entry notching a win coming into the race is Golden Number (Coach's Gold-Secret Number).

As for Pechanga, who will be handled anew by Antonio Alcantara Jr., the stiffest challenge in the contest also set over 1,400 m could come from Straight Free (Free Water-Straight Effort), Kaligaton (Bite the Bullet-Kayumanggi) and Erica's Talent (Wild Zone-Welsh Bunny).

The Juvenile Colts and Juvenile Fillies each carries a pot of P1 million, with the winning entries getting P600,000.

Last year's opening legs were won by Speed Majesty (Colts) and Lamborghini (Fillies).

Also slated today is a Class Division meeting over 1,500 m between recent Triple Crown rivals Real Spicy and Speed Advantage.

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Tierro trains his sights on Grand Slam

By Dennis U. Eros
Inquirer Libre Sports Editor

THE ROAD to tennis' Grand Slam isn't a stroll in the park.

Ask Virgilio 'Beepong' Sison, lone Filipino netter to experience all the Grand Slams—US, Australian, Wimbledon, French—during the '80s.

TIERRO PDI PHOTO

"Trading strokes with the world's best players, rubbing shoulders with names who are byword in tennis were experiences I can't forget," recalled Sison, now president of the Subic Bay Sports Management Inc. "Nobody will."

Still possessing the soul and touch of a true champion, Sison is again on the road to the grand slam.

This time, Sison, who still favors wooden rackets to today's high-technology brands, is busy charting the grand slam trip of prodigy Patrick John Tierro.

Only 15, the six-foot-one Tierro is considered the country's brightest hope for international tennis stardom.

Tierro heads a bunch of promising netters at the Subic Bay International Tennis Centers in Subic Bay who are being trained by Sison, once assistant national coach of Switzerland.

"Yes, once physical maturity sets in and three years of constant tournament exposure is attained, PJ can make it to the top 200 and will be in a position to qualify for Grand Slam events three years from now," said Sison. "With PJ's athletic skills and game, I feel he can be competitive. PJ is definitely a 'material.'"

Sison said PJ's goal in the next 3-5 months is to get 20 more ATP points (No. 800 or 700 ATP) by competing in various ITF Futures Asia tournament. He is ranked 1100 in the world. Backed by sportsman-businessman Juan Henri Lhuillier of Cebuana Lhuillier, Tierro is presently campaigning in Indonesia.

National coach Martin Mits praised Tierro's showing recently against Lebanon in the Davis Cup. Tierro won both his singles matches in RP's 2-3 setback.

"PJ's game definitely improved since the tie with South Korea, especially when PJ came from ITF Thailand," Mits noted.

In an interview before his Indonesia trip, Tierro told the Inquirer that he is happy with the way his career is shaping.

"I know that I can make it to the grand slams. All tennis players dream of making it to the grand slam," said Tierro.

Ringside TV Boxing today

ROY DOLIGUES shows off his cocky style against veteran Allan Paredes in today's Ginebra San Miguel Ringside TV Boxing from 3 to 4 p.m. on ABC-5. The 10-round, 118-lb encounter being put up by Gelorde Enterprises Inc. and ABC-5, with the backing of Councilor Joseph Juico, took place at Barangay Project 6, Quezon City, as part of its fiesta celebration recently. The fight will also be shown in the US, Canada and Japan through Mabuhay Channel.

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Sense of the possible

EX-SENATOR Raul Roco, who passed away on Friday, did not leave the scene like an Old Testament prophet, unhonored in his own country. From his youth, he had received the grateful recognition of the various communities he served, expressed in diverse forms: academic honors, unqualified professional success, an outstanding lawmaking career, untold political capital.

EDITORIAL

And yet there remains a sense that the country he served did not quite give him the final recognition he deserved. This sense, of course, is based on his two unsuccessful runs for the presidency, on the notion that his defeat was ultimately the nation's loss.

It is worth noting that, in the outpouring of praise from all sides of the political divide, the tributes from the younger politicians have been stamped by a deep imprint of what might have been. A fellow Bicolnon, Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., said that if history would judge Roco the "best president this country never had, no one will contest such a judgment." At the other end of the political spectrum, Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño echoed this view: Roco was "probably the most qualified president the country never had."

These are remarkable testimonials, considering that history's list of highly qualified candidates for president includes Claro M. Recto, Raul Manglapus and Jovito Salonga.

They are all the more remarkable coming from the country's younger leaders.

The older members of the political class have not held back on their praise for Roco. But it is in the language used by Andaya, Casiño, et al. that the sense of unfulfilled potential is strongest, and at its most plaintive.

Why is this so?

In part, the tribute is a function of the very language they used; the praise may have been suggested by the phrase.

But the tribute is also a function of their youth; they were not around when Recto and Lorenzo Tañada and Manglapus stirred at the windmills of Philippine politics. Roco's example may have made a stronger impression because it was an experience they lived through.

But in greater part, the tribute is a reflection of Roco's own appeal: He drew the young, understood them, spoke their language.

We do not mean that he spoke in rap or wrote in "text-ese." We mean that he appealed to the idealism, the sense of the possible, that animates the young. His last campaign theme, offering "new hope," was political sentimentalism; but it was political sentimentalism with a specific demographic in mind.

It helped that his appeal to idealism was backed by a reputation for competence, in his law practice and in government service, and for wit.

Those three virtues—idealism, competence, intelligence—all came together in an iconic episode during the Estrada impeachment trial. Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, a former judge, had insinuated that a witness, a young lawyer who had left a job at one law firm for another with lower pay, was somehow in the wrong. "The normal reaction is to accept the higher salary," Santiago said. Roco used his turn to ask the witness to defend, not only the lawyer on the witness stand, but all lawyers. He asked questions that allowed the witness to say the truth, which is that money was not the only consideration. Then he turned around and asked: "The law is not a business but a noble profession."

It is a sense, he owed everything to that profession. His work ethic was shaped by the brutal realities of lawyering, Philippine-style. As many of those who worked for him have said, he did his homework, and drove himself and his staff hard.

He had his shortcomings, of course. He was not much of a coalition builder; for him, politics was not so much solidarities as proximity. He believed that a single man with forthrunders' lover could move the world. But in Congress, and in the Senate, and in the Department of Education, the reality is that no lever can ever be long enough.

This shortcoming was felt most in his presidential campaigns, which lacked the network and the resources that a Senate three of equally impressive candidates would have made available. The outpouring of praise since Friday is thus doubly poignant, if those politicians had supported him then, perhaps, his fate would have been different. Eulogies are wasted on the dead.

The Evelio Javier case

SEPARATE OPINION

Indignant A. Cruz

THE CURRENT controversy over the Javier case reminds me of the case of Evelio Javier vs. Commission on Elections, 144 SCRA 194, which was ruffled to my chastity after the investigation of the Supreme Court in 1986. The petitioner had complained of irregularities committed in the election for the Sultanate Pantimian in Antique, but the case was intentionally ignored during mental test and was still undecided after Edsa I.

The records showed that Javier had failed to prevent the proclamation of the GR, candidate, Amera Pantimian, and the game is on the Supreme Court for relief. While his petition was pending, Javier and some of his supporters were murdered in cold blood and in broad daylight. After studying the case, I recommended to then Associate Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee Sr. that the case Supreme Court should make a statement.

And so I wrote the decision on the merits, excerpts of which follow:

"The new Solicitor General has moved to dismiss this petition on the ground that as a result of supervening events it has become moot and academic. It is not as simple as that. Several lives have been lost in connection with this case, including that of the petitioner himself. The private respondent is a warlord. The party of suffrage has been defiled and the popular will stymied through a combination of those in authority. This Court cannot keep silent in the face of these evil. We have. The case is not moot.

"The abolition of the Sanggunig Bayanan and the disappearance of the office in dispute hereto make petitioner and the private respondent—both of whom have gone their separate ways—unfit for a consistent justification for declaring the case. But there are larger issues that must be resolved now. The more important purpose is to manifest to the distant possible within that this Court will not disregard and to effect continue among us the simplistic and inherent process that the case has become moot and academic.

"The Supreme Court is not only the highest arbiter of legal questions but also the conscience of the government. The citizen comes to us in spirit of last for we trust that give him justice. The vote are not always the same. There are times when we cannot grant the relief because the issue has been rendered academic or is no longer justiciable according to the law. But there are also times when although the dispute has disappeared, as in the case, it never theless comes out to be resolved. Justice demands that we act then, not only for the vindication of the outraged right, though gone, but also for the guidance of and as a restrain upon the future."

Since this case began in 1984, many significant events have taken place, not the least of which was the February revolution of "people power" that abolished the past regime and ended well nigh fourteen years of travail for this captive nation. The petitioner is gone, killed by a hail of bullets spurred with evil. The purpose by assassins whose murder is yet to be disclosed. The private respondent has disappeared with the gang of goons he had before enjoyed. Even the Sanggunig Bayanan itself has been abolished, an ubiquitous vestige of the previous regime's dictatorship. Only the Supreme Court remains. It is in very view, as has been supposed, an arduous season, to avoid the wounds of this case in the archives and say the case is finished and the book is closed.

"But not yet.

"Let us first say those meager words in celebration of Javier's hero who struck down at the edge of his youth because he dared to speak against tyranny. Where many kept a sneaky silence for fear of retaliation, and still others feigned and fawned in hope of safety and even reward, he was not afraid. Money did not tempt him. Threats did not daunt him. He was a simplistic and all-exacting obsession: the return of freedom to his country. And though he fought one in the bastions of war amid the sound and smoke of gun and shell, he was a soldier nonetheless, fighting valiantly for the freedom of his people, against the enemies of his race, unfortunately of his race too, who would impose upon this land a perpetual night of dark enslavement. He did not use the breaking of the dawn, and in say late in a very real sense Evelio B. Javier made that desert dawn nearer because he was, like Saul and Jonathan, 'swifter than eagles and stronger than lions.'

"... upon government has taken over in the wake of the February revolution. The designs has escaped and, with him, its as pray all the oppressions and repressions of the past have ceased. Even his handiwork, the law upon it is now upon our hand. A new vision limns the horizon. Here are our task forward with new hope that under the Constitution of the future every Filipino shall be truly sovereign in his own right, and that no regime will ever again usurp the private ballot with his connivance as he existed.

"This is not an impossible dream. Indeed, it is an approachable goal. It can and will be won if we are able at last, after say long ordeal, to live never again as cowards. If we can do this with courage and conviction, then and only then, and not until then, can we truly say that the case is finished and the book is closed."

Who can we turn to?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

TOLD STORY is told about a very sick wife who requested her husband to call a veterinarian. "Why a veterinarian, are a doctor?" the husband asked. "That's because I work like a horse, you like a dog and live with a pig," was the wife's reply.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mt. 14, 22-33) Jesus teaches us to rate as prayer as He himself did whenever He was under pressure from the crowd. Priests, ordinals and others can help us find our bearings and strength, especially when we are already "row tire" and in need of encouraging. Where to, we need to turn to God in prayer when we are "mixed about by waves that threaten our very lives. It is precisely at such times that we need to turn to God in prayer. Who do you turn to, what do you turn to when problems overwhelm you?

* * *

When you walk through a storm, where do you seek refuge? Some may jet, and some fly away (literally, to another country!). Right there too solve the problem. One may seek refuge in drugs, alcohol and other worldly pleasures, but the problem is not gone and may even be compounded. One can take flight from the noise and the business of this world, but he cannot leave the raging turmoil within. One can gather a thousand friends, admirers, lift buddies to fix the problem, but they can only do so much. At the end of the day the only soul one must come to in the quiet (our heart to God's heart), and the way to walk it is through one's knees, alone.

* * *

So much easier, debtors and media bliss surround us these days. If only we listen to God in prayer, there will not be so many fears in our midst. But because of the waves suffering so, we have, like Peter, taken off our eyes from the Lord. From the truth, instead, we have focused on cover-ups, manoeuvrings, manipulations, half-truths and even blatant lies. Given this situation, we all will sink. May the Holy Spirit enlighten us, and, if this is not possible, banish the liars and manipulators from our midst. One hears so much lately, and we are overwhelmed with many rhetoric and lies. Time to throw them out into the sea, don't you think so?

* * *

"Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Your friendship is these words of love, especially in these days when there is so much turmoil in our midst. It is a consoling thought to know that God is in the midst and that truth will prevail, although one is disheartened at times that the lies and the hoax seem to be getting the upper hand, and appear to be gaining away with their evil designs. I believe in truth, and I believe in the triumph of truth and goodness. But it is not enough to believe. We all must work for the truth. What else God is on the side of truth. Believe in the truth. Work for the truth.

* * *

When I find myself sinking in worry and pressures during the day, I also relieve that myself reaching out to God by looking up and saying, "Hey, oh Boy!" "Boy" for me is "because Of You." Try it, sing it. When you are so engrossed in your daily work and concerns, look up and say, "Because of you, Lord." Their you realize that the reason for all that you are doing is for, and you get to see the big picture again. Suddenly feelings of self-importance and overly concerns disappear, and one is lifted up again from the stenches of personal agenda, time-tables, and what-have-you's. "Because Of You." Yes, sing it. Pray it. It works!

* * *

As the song goes, "I remember the day, but I don't remember the feeling anymore." It is true enough to remember the "how" (because of you). How many times we forget the "feeling." It is good to be reminded why we are doing what we are doing, but, we must recapture the original motivation when we first started out. Through time though, we may no longer who we are and what we started out to do, we are how "the feeling" because our have become automatic, prosaic and, yes, normal. Where do we get in touch with the "original" in us? Are in calming or debating, are in the midst, are in the silence, are in our wet rooms, but in the silence of our hearts, in humble prayer.

* * *

My prayer is that as we go through life, as we go through this emotional crisis we are facing now, we all will focus our eyes on Jesus, and not on the waves threatening to overwhelm us. We also must remember that our humble cries Him so that He can save us. Above all, we must be willing to listen to what He has to say. Then we must continue pursuing and doing our mission. What matters in the end is that we loved, we loved at all. Encouragement like!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, when we are deflated by storms and we start to sink, help us to cave to you in prayer, persistent and good deeds. Amen.

Where is Virgilio Garcillano? (2)

RIVERLIE

Raimundo J. Fernández

MORE than a month ago, I asked the question, "Where is Virgilio Garcillano? The world media—notably the ones in Freedom Is Contagious—is doing during the May elections—that Garcillano's presence and imminent meddling will be clear for all to see, guarding the electoral computer(s) (longer being touted as Smartmatic) in Pasay. That is. The machines are the ones doing the dirty deeds. On the other hand, if the opposite is true, then this explains why Garcillano has not been found from the sack along provincial lines.

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Another crossroad for Saudi Arabia?

COMMENTARY

Mel Sotto

THE 20 Saudi Arabia's decade-long, royal death watch is over. King Fahd, the longest-serving king in Saudi Arabia's history (23 years), is dead. For six weeks, the King lay in a hospital fighting death—something he has been doing, in reality, ever since he suffered a massive stroke 10 years ago. The identity of the new king is clear, but one of the few who will really understand.

In the political underlings of Alamiat The few where he was dying, in a divid.

ed Yugoslavia, the King's royal relatives (also his political underlings) feared that the father's death would unleash chaos. And his death came at a time when the wider Middle East is abuzz with talk of democratic change. From Egypt to Lebanon to Iran, political passions are mounting, along with a renewed appreciation of Islam's role in society. Islamic and political opinion is radio and on the Internet are flowering in never before, from the conservative states of the Arabian Peninsula are enthralled in lively disputes about women's ministers. This representation, Islamic participation in the political process, and even the future of their ruling monarchies. In these dynamic circumstances, Saudi Arabia stands out.

Indeed, Saudi Arabia seems trapped in a state of suspended animation, in both politics and affairs. The country's single-heaven rule clashes: pragmatic intellectual underlying paradox and irony.

Dressing in the kingdom are sharper than ever, and the King's death might deepen their burden. Two rival camps... die as exiled reformers and the hard liners... are forming in the Al Saud, the world's largest ruling family, with 22,000 princes and princesses.

The reformers want not only authority but are the acceptable face of the Saudi dictatorship internationally. Their new leader, King Abdullah, appears to have legitimacy because of his seniority in the family. The reformers will also point to Abdullah's qualifications, national dialogues and their tightest women, who they hope will be more influential in the years to come.

Even those limited efforts are constrained by the ambition Abdullah's camp, which controls the security forces, the judiciary powers and the real levers of domestic power. Indeed, Prince Nayif, the minister of the interior and leader of the hardliners, has either silenced or imprisoned hundreds of the few Saudi reformers.

One reason for the weakness of Abdullah's faction is that he has some support within the family because the Al Saud owners of power live with the al Faisals... due to the full business of the dead King Fahd, most importantly Prince Sultan, the defense minister, and Prince Nayif. In the end, the succession has proceeded as expected, with Crown Prince Abdullah becoming king now that Fahd has died. In spite of this, Abdullah may not be able to shape the future, because he seems destined to have any shortcomings with Nayif's forces.

Abdullah's power base is in the National Guard, and his views on the country's Saudi Arabia's modernizing forces. Both are insufficient to check Nayif. A key early test of Abdullah's longevity will be his success in freeing the hundreds of political reformers now in prison, especially those respected academics whose be encouraged to make reform proposals, really solve the problem.

Here time King failed to grasp, still secrets among his countrymen brothers and half-brothers, are to succeed the thousands of princes in the next generation, will need to be settled. But don't look for hope in the new generation, which is not necessarily young or progressive. Indeed, the Al Saud may be more divided and more King's unlikely to emerge. The direction the country will take in the longer term can best be assessed by whom Abdullah chooses to name as the successor to Prime Sultan, Nayif's chief ally who has already been named Abdullah's deputy.

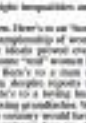
If Abdullah (aged 80) dies a generation and appoints a more open-minded younger figure, there may be hope. But Nayif (age 77), his full brothers—including Sultan (age 82)—and their supporters within the Abdullah establishment appear set on a narrower path. Like the generals' succession that preceded the collapse of the Soviet Union, the succession of Saudi Arabia seems to be only a step short in an irreversible march toward political decay. Russia found a young reformer in Mikhail Gorbachev too late; it may also be too late for Saudi Arabia.

Project Syndicate

Mel Sotto is an author and research fellow at the Royal Institute for International Affairs (Chatham House).

Raul and 'Lola Afric'

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

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He may have received the "nod" for drafting and successfully pushing the passage of the "Women in Nation Building Act," which laid to rest several gender-based biases in our laws. But even before this and long after it, Roco was a champion of women's rights, a champion before the law. I remember the years when the progressive anti-rape bill was going through an earnest, agonizing deliberation in Congress. Roco presided over the hearings on the bill, and I was there. Earnest and good possible pitfalls in the language of the legislation, as well as how to sensitize policemen. At each, we couldn't have supported any less than the landmark bill Roco Mahonoy Roco, hosted a reception for the women's rights groups that drafted the bill—a reception at which Roco, then married for the first time was anything truly admirable in their marriage, it was Raul and Sonia's partnership, their mutually supporting each other in their pursuit of each one's causes and dreams.

Roco's championship of women's causes drew that of the presidency, which Raul pursued twice, with Sonia proving herself his most ardent supporter. In his first attempt, he did better than expected, but lost to the eventual winner, Joseph Estrada, partly because of the youth and demonstrating a solid hold on the loyalty of Bicolanos. But in his second run at the presidency, despite early impressive showings in the polls and high credibility ratings, his campaign never took off. Many have attributed the latter to his decision to remove himself from the campaign shortly before the election in protest of fraud.

Still, Roco may have been "the best president the country never had," to the Inquirer obituary, and quite convincingly, put it. But his failure to make it to Malacañang should not distract from a proper appreciation of his role in our history. He was a lawyer who championed the cause of the late Ilen Mitra Aquino in his participation in the anti-dictatorship movement and his career as a legislator. Roco proved his commitment to democracy and his enduring belief in the power of the law to right inequalities and address social problems.

Here's to Raul Roco, then. Here's to an "honorary woman" whose championship of women's causes and feminist ideals proved even more solid than those of some "real" women in positions of leadership. Here's to a man of principles and generosity, despite reports of his battles with a temper. Here's to a man who loved and loves and is endless. We may never know how the country would have fared under a Roco presidency, but we do know that the country lost a good man.

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PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

Change

We tend to think of change as something to achieve rather than as something to recognize. We talk of effecting changes in our value system or in the structure of our society—little supporting clue the result of such changes have already been made. It is my impression here that the reasoning which in our national life may be no more than the symptom of the anxious crowded by unconfirmed changes that have taken place over many years in various spheres of our society. Here's my observation in this regard.

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In her last State of the Nation Address, President Macapagal-Arroyo appeared to be guided by some version of that theory when she said that the nation's political system has lagged behind its economic system. She argued that our political problems are the outcome of an outmoded presidential and unitary system of government. We shall change leaders, she says, but if we don't change the system, the outcome will be the same. She points herself as a victim, and blames the system for the dysfunctions of her administration. To her, the solution is simple: change the form of government to achieve parliamentary government.

The shift in perspective from persons to systems is not entirely wrong, and indeed, it is there we focused on systemic change. The last January's analysis is flawed in at least two ways. First, the facts we really will no other changes have taken place in our country's political economy among civil factions of the elite. Disenfranchised powers in global investors it is the main factor in economic success factor. Paul B. Hutchcroft, who studied the time between politics and banking in our country's, used the term "binary capitalism" to describe this arrangement.

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IN THE NEWS

Michelangelo Luna

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PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
jarreston@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Bautista Jr.

Another look at jueteng

DESPITE a police crackdown on jueteng, the illegal numbers game and its variants are back in 14 areas nationwide, according to a private anti-jueteng group. The Kristadelang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng said gambling operations were back in provinces like Quezon, Batangas, Laguna, Nueva Ecija, Zambales, Tarlac, Bataan, Cebu and Catanduva, and cities like Bacolod, Davao and General Santos.

The Philippine National Police launched the crackdown on jueteng after a border-to-lang husband and son of President Macapagal-Arroyo were accused of receiving payoffs from gambling operators. Now, Mr Arroyo herself is accused of benefiting from the underground lottery.

A release has come forward and claimed that election officials were given jueteng money right inside the house of Mr Arroyo in Quezon City four months before the May 2004 presidential election. Mr Arroyo has denied the allegation.

Because jueteng is illegal, operators realize that prosecution of authorities through payoffs. Legalizing jueteng cut-out the payoffs. But making the popular numbers game legal is an uphill battle as the Church is against it. In the meantime, jueteng operations and the payoffs will continue.

It's time jueteng feeds our poor, not politicians

By Emma Alday

Now we are getting a closer look at the real name of our nation. It is the jueteng payola that runs our country. For the longest time, I thought it was clever vow of obedience that makes law enforcement officials and even those highest authorities so corrupt with election results.

From all appearances now, it is the payola that bought the souls of those to whom answered our sacred votes. The hearings in the Senate are not over. As of now, from the evidence and circumstances coming out one by one, I cannot suspend my judgement on these issues. It is the illegality of the game that brings out the evils out there.

Being a devout religious, my support for the legalization of pursuing jueteng proceeds having ceased in a remote barrio for 18 years. I came to understand why jueteng runners so much especially in the poor. If one goes to visit barangay residents in their home, many of them can show with pride the things they were able to acquire from jueteng winning... sala set, kitchenware, infant seats, refrigerator, utensils, jackets, washing machine, etc... "Should I suggest to stop mamili." Same, at the risk of time, of the resident who gave birth, were able to pay hospitalbills.

Shock

When I became a councilor in my hometown, Sto. Tomas, Batangas, in 1995, I was shocked to find out that jueteng was being operated by the Association of Barangay Captains (ABC) and managed by three principales (chairs). They were allowed by the mayor to do so, hoping to receive some share the P200,000 per month allocated to the jueteng grants in their cities. I remember being handed an envelope with P3,000 by someone who said "idam sa mga kung ano pa ang." This was the first and last. I used it to buy uniforms to clean the river passing through the town.

Within the entire week, I talked with our barrio councilors who he allowed the ABC to operate jueteng and operator friendly. I remember challenging him to either an expert or a friend to operate the town's book, give it back to professional operators. Nayon will no go to anyone's pocket, it will be properly programmed, audited and bid out for at least P500,000.

Our concerned citizens, our parish priest, our colleagues at the Sangguniang Bayan supported my proposal. It was opposed by the mayor. Before I talked to the mayor for approval, word already went around and their interested parties were lining up to apply. It was true that I learned then in our town alone jueteng was earning P300,000 to P400,000 daily. That means a cut of 5% million to P12 million monthly at that rate. I also learned how the payola money operates. But I was informed that it went all the way up to Malacañang.

In Regions 1 to 5, I was told, the net goes up to P60 million daily. This means P2P3 billion annually.

Hypocritical

To close our eyes to this reality and say to "no" the issue of immorality is "hypocritical." Think of where it can do to our country. Most of the money comes from the poor. If jueteng is legalized, it's the poor's money that will liberate our country from corruption and restaurant is no.

Church authorities are unanimously opposed of gambling per se because they say it is immoral. Some of them, though, benefit from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Philippine Gaming and Amusement Corp., and even sponsor bingo nights to raise funds for the construction and repairs of church buildings and for other parish activities. But it is undebatable at this point that they will support the legalization of jueteng. But what about casinos, scratchgaming, slots, pot-a-lotong, lotto, e-lotto, etc., proceeds of the different sweepstakes companies, etc.? Compared with these games, jueteng involves a bigger population of our poor people of the payola.

If jueteng is legalized:

• 90% of the poor will remain and recover well. They can have one 120-unit campaign opportunities abroad so high school graduates or even to those who never got a chance to study after Grade 6.

• We can have well-staffed and equipped government hospitals and give quality service to those in the church wards.

• We can build more schools and provide free quality education for the underprivileged and pay appropriate salaries to qualified teachers committed to nation building.

• We can construct more farm-to-market roads and irrigation facilities for our farmers.

• We can subsidize our farmers so they can have a good price for their products and sell them at affordable prices.

• We can rebuild Luzon's railways and springs to make our air and water cleaner again.

• We can donate our leaders can be models of commitment, integrity and capability and hope that our buying and decision campaigning will be things of the past.

On the other hand, if jueteng remains illegal:

• Payola will continue to run our country.

• We will have to be dependent on foreign debt to cope with our budget deficit.

• Our chances of leaders will be forced to unscrupulous candidates, often racketeers empowered by the jueteng payola.

• Jueteng money from the poor is always a bigger chance for many to hold up the rich and with unsafe savings—life and will strive be used against our poor under the banner of compassion.

Interconnected

It is naïve to think that this is a simple matter. A president who attempted to legalize it is now on his fifth year of impeachments. The one who took his place from our believe in legalization. He now accused of harvesting the benefits of jueteng laid from the very beginning of his political career. The man then a secret scandal because the latter accuses.

Gone against her wishes to those that her past was brought by jueteng payola. Under Cardi, close Palad and jueteng payola are interconnected.

Let us legalize jueteng. For decades it has fed politicians hungry for money to it about time it feeds our poor who hungry for food, shelter, etc. a then money.

Alday is a former dean of the Religious of the Good Shepherd. She is now Chair of Good Foundation, Inc. in Tiaong, Quezon, which provides scholarships to poor and provides them with financial assistance for crop production.)

Legislation won't solve the problem of gambling

By Fr. Delfin S. Felipe

Gambling in the country indicates a fundamental flaw in our values. Most legislators and administrators of late will not suffice to eradicate the gambling.

For the average Filipino, work does not have as much value as rest and play. Rather, he tends to view games and amusements—whether it be for all, fun, fly or fortune—as the end for which he might work.

He need a reengineering of values to give work its rightful pre-eminence over rest and play and to establish a proper proportion between work and rest.

The increased study brought about by the product of income—and even the occasional actual victory—can be obtained by a wide variety of morally acceptable means. That is why it is pathological to become fixated on just one form of recreation. It is that fixation that almost certainly leads to addiction, which destroys the person.

There are unequal forms of recreation involving a different industrial mix, without producing any money. The downside of this kind of rest are similar, in contrast to the tangible prices of competition. Tranquil forms of rest do not provide the equivalent of intermittent money, but they seem fail to deliver a sense of well being.

Lame excuse

One of the incomprehensible goods that a person is addicted to refers he or she begins to justify the gambling habit by calling it an "alternative source of income," which is to assume becomes the only means of income. This self-deception is characteristic of inveterate gamblers, who have resorted to the play as a means of "supporting their family" and even supporting the nation.

Poor administrations have attempted to augment the personal income by legalizing gambling.

The only natural way to maintain a family and a nation is through productive work. The only moral way to maintain the national income is through judicious use of government funds coupled with honesty and efficiency in revenue collection. Revenue through institutionalized, sometimes and uninterrupted games of chance is wrong and consequently evil.

Deficiencies in parenting

When a person is dominated by addiction, others are affected. In gambling, money merely changes hands, with very little production happening. But the greatest losers are social.

Filipino parents today do not generally tolerate the virtues of industriousness among their children. We have forgotten that children should be raised to grow in virtues as they encounter life, and this requires allowing decisive experience-taken challenges.

Middle- and higher-income parents are perpetually acting as "stock smashers" for their children. So long as it is within their power, they will not allow their children to do chores, to labor with excellence and to stand up for principle while it is still early. Children could are too soft.

Among the few parents who do allow their children to face some challenges, the motivation is always so that they can enjoy life. This perspective is alien to the Christian outlook on life because it sees as an extrinsic good mixed of heaven—a false heaven—here on earth. Rather than serve others, they end up thinking that they should be served by others.

Economically marginalized parents are often victims to conclusions about improving their position. Because they cannot find work or are simply tired of low pay, they resort to games of chance in order to survive, to make ends and improve the fortunes of their families.

They don't realize how many families depend on jueteng just to eat. I don't deny there is money to be made in jueteng but definitely not by the city people like the locals. He's still not a millionaire and doesn't own a vast of motorcycle after almost two decades in the business.

For someone like me, it's difficult to think of jueteng as a measure to restore what it was a way of over our hands, gone as an education and filled my stomachs. We never get this much from the government or the Church!

Since the crackdown on jueteng, my father tries to fine-off our stay and can't since but he still can survive for long without his income from jueteng. My youngest brother stopped going to school to find work to help out. My mother lets helpless in a hospital bed not receiving about how to pay for her operation. Rene Bienvenido, 23, encoder, Batangas City

Anak ng jueteng

I was 10 years old when I began to understand the nature of my father's job. He's been one town's councilor and for the past 15 years depended on jueteng for a livelihood. While a daily income of P200 to P500 is managed to provide his family with the basic necessities and to see four children through elementary school, needless to say, we were no jueteng tuyuk and it had to learn to cope my keep by the time I was in college.

I handled my father's night shifts and took him to pay not only for my high school tuition but for my brother's college education, too. We took turns counting and totaling as we could both graduate. I must've been the youngest cadre in the area at that time and it wasn't always easy. As in bed, everyone knew my father was a cohorder and I was always the target of jokes. I was embarrassed as well my dates when my income slashes among.

Children from well-off families count all and insulted me but there was nothing I could do. My father urged me to continue studying so we wouldn't have to make a career out of jueteng the way he had to. Now, I'm employed as a booking/encoding company but I remain grateful to and supportive of jueteng despite the stigma and the controversy that goes with it.

My siblings and I were raised solely from jueteng money only because my father had no other choice. He must see be the ideal role model but he was no stiffler. Even other fathers who were hard to give their children a better future. Call it many names, he was known, a shiftmaster and hard-working.

I get annoyed when I hear people say the government should put an end to jueteng. I don't think they know what they're talking about. They're only the first few seen quick story are to judge and the cloud of ignorance that surrounds them. They don't realize how many families depend on jueteng just to eat. I don't deny there is money to be made in jueteng but definitely not by the city people like my father. He's still not a millionaire and doesn't own a vast of motorcycle after almost two decades in the business.

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GAMBLING	vs	WORK
Fun		Effort
Chance		Discernment
Reliance on luck		Reliance on skill
Mediocrity		Excellence
Greater probability of loss		Greater probability of gain
Distraction and diversion		Focus and attention
Little or no productivity		Productivity and development
Critical to global economy		Gains in global economy

As they wallow in cynicism and despair, their children are learning the fundamentals of gambling while playing in the streets.

Erroneous attitudes

There are two attitudes discernible among gamblers.

• Play hard, risk no good luck. The first one says "enjoy life." Do not worry yourself too much. Play! This remains of hedonistic with a strong fatalistic flavour and components: "Pare, Let's hang Baka mamaya ako ang mabaril." "Pare, Let's hang Baka mamaya ako ang mabaril."

• Play hard, risk no good luck. The second attitude says "work hard... to enjoy life." On an same, but in the end, the highest goal of life is still enjoyment and entertainment.

As a matter of principle, there should be an appropriate ratio of work to play. As the saying goes "We work and we play hard." But we need to distinguish between work and play. Work is not play, and play is not work.

In the Philippines, the balance has been tilted far too long in favor of play, play, play. Everything, including the discourse to high office, is reduced to a game.

What we have today is the injustice of arming our minds, hearts and hands to diligent and productive work.

Paradigm shift

Consider the contrast between a culture of gambling versus a culture of work. See table below:

Now it is easier to understand why big disaster and low achievements alone can survive under the presidency of gambling. It is time a concerted of education and reform before it becomes a matter of fate.

(Fr. Felipe is associated with the Ministry for Family and Life, Archdiocese of Manila. This article is a shortened version of [Major] paper "A Theological Perspective of Work and Rest: Reflections on the Filipino Situation as a Context and Challenge to Christian Perspectives.")

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Gergorio

Colonel linked to coup kept in freezer

DAGNO CITY—The former commander of the Army's 4004th Infantry Brigade, Col. Ricardo Morales, who was relieved on June 10 following suspicions that he was among those plotting to destabilize the government, remains in a floating status.

Brig. Gen. Jose Angel Rosca, military spokesperson and chief of the Civil Relations Affairs of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said Morales, of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1977, has not been given any assignment since his e-mail, which criticized the military's spending for the controversial Boracay project, became public.

The e-mail, which was sent out on May 31 read: "Mom can a 60-year man in Boracay improve the AFP's capacity to fight? Who decided this priority?"

"The time has come for all good men to come to the aid of their country. The time for talking is over; the time for action is now... The next coup will be peaceful and open, brought to the leaders who talk about reform but do not understand what they are saying, brought by true organic national unquiting" Morales wrote.

In a memorandum dated June 9, incoming AFP chief and Army commander Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga told Morales that "as brigade commander, it is end of hostels For you to make these decisions made by higher headquarters in just are forum; there as, speak ill of the AFP leadership."

After Senga's memorandum, Morales was sacked as brigade commander.

Brig. Gen. Ferdinand Bocobo replaced Morales as acting 4004th IB commander, but was later replaced by Col. Rosario Manotoc.

Manotoc was relieved few weeks ago and was succeeded by Col. Artemio Abadilla.

"Colonel Morales has undergone a disciplinary action for lack of good judgment and indiscretion not appropriate for a military officer. A specific punishm has yet to be given to him," Ibarrola said.

But retired Air Force Lt. Col. Eduardo Mora Morales, Morales' father, said he is proud of his son.

"I am proud of my son, Dick. So is my wife and our family. So are the many who express support for him—for his courage to denounce anomalies that erode the

A PMA cadet stands in the rain during summer rites at the military academy

AFP. Now, Dick has to face the consequences—relief from his command and an accusation by narrative in his career, "he said in a message to the Pledo and Canlubang, a battalion-only message board of about 500 PMA cadets and graduates.

The elder Morales said his son, "a product of our country's and the time, the public school system and his own principles," had joined other soldiers in the Edsa I Revolution that toppled Marcos and restored democracy in the nation.

"[He] he opposed and fought every attempt of coup plotters to grab power after Edsa. he has put his life on the line each day like the true soldier he is. I twice he was wounded in action," he said.

Anthony J. Alfeche and Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao bureau

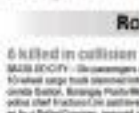
Roundup

6 killed in collision

BAGUIO CITY – Six passengers died while 20 others were injured when a 10-wheel cargo truck careened into a jeep at around 3 p.m. on Monday in Buguias, Benguet, police said. Chief Insp. Marcelo Bayocot, Buguias police chief fractured his ear in the collision showed that the truck, driven by a Rolan Corsiaan, swerved and careened into the oncoming jeep bound for Victoria City after its left front tire was detached. The strong impact caused the vehicle to turn turtle several times, he said. Only one of the cargo truck's 20 passengers bound for a cargo town in Benguet was hurt.

Carlo P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Threats to Bayan Muna



MAC. Davao Oriental—At least 13 Bayan Muna members have claimed they were threatened by motorcycle-riding men, who introduced themselves as operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), Party Rhodante, a Bayan Muna official, said they are expecting another Gloria materials on Thursday last week when the CIDG operatives arrived.

"They claimed to be in close intelligence with our propaganda materials against the President because if we didn't, they said we will suffer the fate of our four colleagues who were killed in Tagum City," Rhodante said. In several cases, they had really left the area but the dangerous men kept on following us," he added. "We were really terrified," Rhodante said. SPO4 Virginio Aranjuez, officer in charge of the Mati police office, said the militants did not report the alleged threat to them.

Ferdinand U. Zamora, PDI Mindanao Bureau

3 drown in mine dam

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Three men drowned in a mine tailings dam in San Ramon town last week. Police said to collect Herman and Reynes Nillas and Norberto Fundanido, all of Barangay Ruhtoweon in San Ramon. Some last seen alive on July 29 while retrieving scrap metal on a huge dried earth in the tailings dam of the Benguet Consolidated Mines Inc. Supt. Romeo de Castro, Zamboanga deputy police director, said the two divers first at 10 a.m. Monday and began retrieving parts of the barge but failed to surface. His companion, Fundanido, tried to locate him after arrival, but he also failed to surface. Norberto's brother, Reynes, tried to find the two but he also drowned. Rescuers were able to recover their bodies at 3 p.m. on July 31.

Allan Macabenta, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Fishers rescue 5 passengers

CAMPO SAKE, Pampanga—Fishermen rescued five passengers of a boat that capsized off the coast of the Pueblo Oriental in San Luis, Aurora, on Wednesday, police said. Fisherman Marcelino Agustin, 64, and four members of the Dominique family identified as Joseph, 38, Rosie, 37, Rojito, 35, and Nicole, 7, were plucked alive from the waters off Sitio Bay around fishermen after their boat capsized, according to Senior Insp. Leandro Rosete, commander of the provincial police mobile group in Baroca. The seven were clinging to the keel of the boat. The passengers were hard in holding on to the boat's outrigger until a group of fishermen saw them and rescued them. Police said the boat capsized after it was hit by strong waves.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

1 killed in robbery

LUCBAN, Quezon—An old man employee was killed while another person was seriously wounded when three men robbed and shot the two employees of a pawnery in Barangay Ilayo in Mauban on Monday. A police report identified the victim as Leonard Cimpanes, 50, a resident of Lucban and an employee of MSC Pawnshop. Investigation showed that the victim had just withdrawn P100,000 from a bank in Lucena City. When the suspects reached an isolated spot along the road, three men pounced on the unarmed the robbers. The victim resisted and fired in self-defense. The money had been immediately shot by the suspects in different packs of the body. He died on the spot. One of the passengers, Aero Tuppingan, a resident of Makati City, was hit by stray bullets.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Clean toilets planned to draw tourists

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Travelers along Halsema Highway, the Cordillera's busiest road network, need a new comfort segment about existing public toilets along the route as the Department of Tourism is all set to make these facilities cleaner and more tourist-friendly.

DOT officials said some of these toilets, found in major destinations and pit stops, had turned off tourists and tourism because of their "very bad smell."

Per Benedict Molintas, Cordillera DOT director, said a task force that would ensure the cleanliness of public toilets along Halsema was soon formed by the DOT, the Department of Health, the Department of Interior and Local Governments, and the Departments of Public Works and Highways.

Molintas said priority would be given to the toilets at the view deck on Km 14 in Barangay Saravagan, Asin, known as the highest point of the Philippine highway system.

Molintas, however, had complained that the toilet underneath the deck stank.

Molintas said the DOT and the task force agreement submitted to the DPWH is administrative matter for the DPWH to improve the deck.

He said the repair of toilets is crucial for tourists who travel from Baguio City to Bontoc, Mt. Province, and from Bontoc to Banaue, Ifugao.

Molintas, however, said the toilets were not really neglected by tourism officials or local government units.

"It is actually the lack of water and water in cities that make them toilets dirty and unacceptable to travelers," she said. Delmar Cariño, *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Vice gov's son accused of rape

PAGADIAN CITY—A scion of an influential political clan here found himself in the middle of another scandal when he allegedly raped a 20-year-old nursing student on Monday evening.

Ramir Alfeto, former Sangguniang Kabataan president here and a son of Zamboanga del Sur Vice Gov. Rosalier Arroza, allegedly invited the victim, a student of the Medina College here, to a birthday party, which was being held at the house of the suspect's relatives along Jose Rizal District.

It was the victim's family that reported the rape to the police about 20 hours after the alleged rape took place.

Reporters who browsed the police blotter noticed that the incident report was marked "not for press release."

Police refused to explain the marking.

A brother of the victim told the entire was made to take alcoholic drinks at the party.

Around 11 p.m. Monday, the victim was brought by a female friend to the hospital, because she started to bleed profusely.

When the reporters tried to seek comment from officials of the Zamboanga del Sur provincial hospital, where the victim was brought, no one was willing to talk. *Michael Tarozaga, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Hope is bright for the ARMM polls

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Manila City

MIDDLE of July, a group of Moroccan youths distributed flyers inviting young people to a Koranic-class seminar about the upcoming elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The activity which was graced by Commission on Elections Commissioner Romeo Brawner last July 17, was entitled, "Young Pro-

[illegible] Pick Us or Elections at Ambushes ng ARMM? Can they involved in the elections and the ARMM government?"

Muslim youth leader Hamza Al Gaza Tomawis said this youth are more involved in the pasure election in the ARMM than in previous ones.

Abdulmari Imo the Catholic-Church's Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), volunteer belonging to Transparency and Accountable Network, Maradeka, Ahmad Domingo Ampuan and the National Youth Parliament Alumni Association Mindanao were very active in conducting voter education. Come voting day on August 8 and until the winners proclaimed, they too, will serve as election monitors.

"Their active participation in the political exercise comes at a crucial time for the ARMM.

Dr. Carlos Ureta, a political scientist and president of the Mindanao State University (MSU), said tomorrow's election is a critical one. "It will determine the future of the ARMM."

Ureta said the ARMM as "in a reversal," seeming redemption in an institution that will either advance the democratic aspirations of the Bangsamoro, or further slide into irrelevance.

"Those who care about democracy are concerned with the ARMM elections," Ureta told participants in a stakeholders' dialogue on the polls sponsored by the MSU.

He said previous administrations were out of [illegible] before its carrying out [illegible] because they corrupted to the "dynasty of reputed Maguindanao and that they take "lesser and very good leaders."

Smash pools

The ARMM was created in 1989 as an answer for Muslim self-government to arrange the climax for an independent Bangsamoro state carved out of Mindanao. The political repression spanned two decades of Moro armed resistance that led to the death of more 150,000 people and displaced millions.

Neglect of the needs of Muslim communities by the Christian-dominated central government in Manila for the first years in succession, a life of the Bangsamoro people then, which in land and environment.

But 14 years after the first set of ARMM leaders held office, the region continues to be [illegible] mired in poverty.

For a decade now, the ARMM is ranked the poorest region in the country, contributing less than one percent to the nation's gross domestic product. It suffers from inadequacy in social services as basic as potable water and infrastructure. Only 11 percent of children who enter Grade 1 finishes Grade 6.

Jamar-ullo Ali, of the Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society Organizations said a survey showed that the ARMM is 96 percent dependent on national government subsidies to support its local requirements.

There is also a wide perception of corruption in the ARMM bureaucracy.

Quoting a survey, Ali said it is no surprise why the ARMM constituency is apathetic about the regional government: only a fourth or more of its programs are implemented, less than a third of [illegible] even recall the names of their representatives in the regional legislative assembly.

Further, almost three quarters say it is useless to pay taxes because of corruption and only 15 percent say the regional government has a great impact on their life.

Credibility

If no other time in ARMM history is good governance a staging challenge. And it starts with electing good leaders, which in turn, can only be done through credible polls.

This is the central issue hounding the ARMM elections amid the national controversy about the alleged rigged election results of the 2004 presidential race.

Tomawis said it is the young Muslims who are very vocal about their apprehensions of fraud.

"They are very emotional about it because it casts a bad light not just on Comelec but heavily on them, their communities [and] their collective ideal [it is] episode," she said.

In the July 17 forum, a young Moro unveiled his plan "not to vote" to "punish the Comelec" to prevent fraud from happening again. His emotional appeal elicited a hearty applause from the audience.

In another forum at the DOE, Jeevan Rao Sundiram, assistant Comelec ARMM director, vowed to reclaim the trust Muslim's vanished image and prove its dedication wrong by having a credible election.

Foreign governments, too, are very concerned about how the ARMM election is conducted. The United States government, through the US Agency for International Development and aided by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems had supported civil society initiatives for voter education and democratic [illegible].

In addition, it is sending several [illegible] observers to the region, who will join others from Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia.

There is high expectation these observer missions would deter fraud and injure weak-dened into the electoral process.

Despite the candidate's questions, the general outlook for a peaceful and orderly conduct polls is bright.

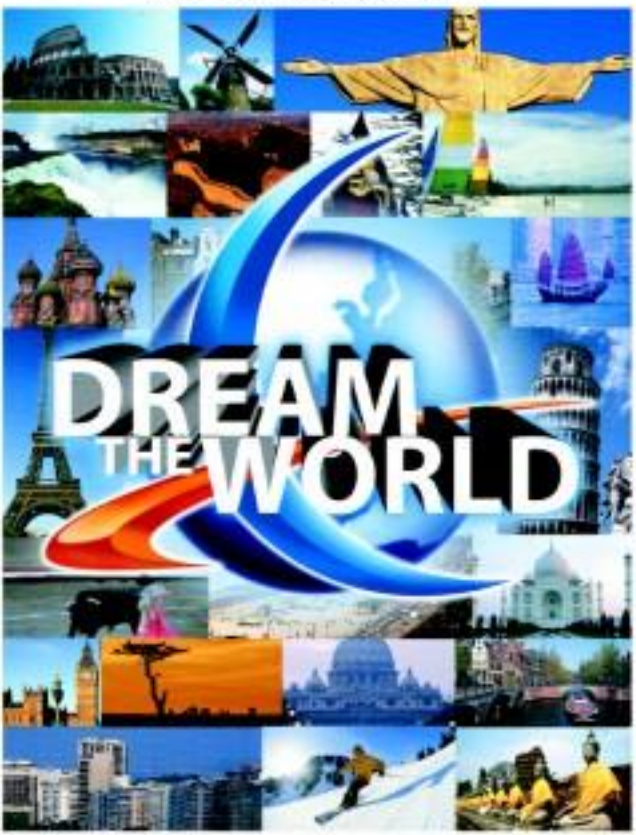
Brig. Gen. Benjamin Rodolfo, chief of Task Force BOPE (Honest, Orderly and Peaceful Elections), said the best of the electoral contest among candidates is relatively less especially that they have committed themselves to non-[illegible] in the poll conduct.

Rodolfo said elements of disruption from the Abu Sayyaf and the Jemaah Islamiyah have been enforced with both groups on the run due to offensive action by the Armed Forces.

Even the Moro Islamic Liberation Front has assured Task Force BOPE that they would not stand in the way of a successful conduct of the elections, Rodolfo added.

Tomawis also said her group has begun to gather reports of money flowing from candidates. Still, she continued to check on the possible developments to spot more changes in the way the region conducts elections.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?



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(Marikina) Valley of the dolls

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

INSIDE a tiny, white shoe store in Barra, a beautiful woman in white sits on a big rock while surveys south her land. Around her are green trees and flowers and a slow-running river left behind.

She is Maria Quiza, a woman loved for her kindness. Her story is one of the tales capturing how Marikina City got its name.

And soon her legend is being immortalized in a tableau of small dolls to elaborate on names in a glass box, the first of the dioramas at the Marikina City Doll Museum.

Reputedly the biggest in the country, the museum has more than 500 dolls in 60 glass boxes that tell the history of Marikina and serve as reminders of many things that are now forgotten.

"The collection depicts the Philippines in a nutshell and the Filipino as a person," city cultural officer Irene Fernandez said.

₱2M worth

The city government spent more than ₱2 million for the collection.

The tableaux are divided into several sections. The first, at least 11 tableaux of 132 dolls, depicts the history of Marikina City.

Maria Quiza's story is followed by 20 tableaux showing other life in the hoods the Marikina River area centuries ago.

Another tableau is devoted to the birth of the shoe industry that made the city famous.

Others describe the city's different festivities, like the Lenten Dance and the Hi-angkan Festival, a parade of families who have lived in the city for over a century.

The first group took with a 24-doll depiction of what Marikina City looks today.

Filipino customs and traditions, like Pamamanhikan, Pamisa and Pagmamano are shown in the next group.

A tableau depicting the almost forgotten Bayanihan shows 16 men carrying a nipa hut. Two women are cooking while another, carrying a baby and her belongings, lead the group to the new location of the house.

HISTORY and the Filipino way of life is portrayed in miniature at the Marikina City Doll Museum. Above is a depiction of the Mayflower procession. Photo top right, reminds visitors of the Filipino trait of Bayanihan, while the picture at bottom right shows homelife of olden times.

Detailed

The tableaux are very detailed.

One tableau, set in a backyard, has a native pen with two pigs and a monkey key for scale. The dolls have slippers, necklaces and earrings. They carry baskets with mangoes, papaya and other fruits. In one tableau, a Spaniard buying a pair of shoes holds a roll of tobacco.

"The dolls were all hand-painted. The costumes made from Filipino materials, the same fabrics we use for real costumes. We wanted the dolls to be very accurate depictions," Lin Erasmo said on behalf of fashion designer Puto Erasmo.

Erasmo and her group, dubbed as Kasalanan, made, dressed and arranged the collection at the Marikina City Doll Museum.

The group opened a similar doll collection in Angeles City in 2002, the year Erasmo released her doll, Nissa, her answer to Barbie.

It inspired Mayor Marides Fernando to also have a doll museum in Marikina City.

28 artists

The city government commissioned Erasmo to make an initial 15 tableaux. Erasmo's team of about 20 artists took almost two months to finish the initial collection, Erasmo said.

The museum opened in February 2005 at the historical and now 150-old Kapitan Moy Building.

When the show became a hit, Erasmo added more dolls.

While maintenance is cheap, since the dolls are in sealed glass boxes, the collection has to be stored in an air-conditioned room.

"We have narrowed our interest in the first collection. We are optimistic we can recover the entire cost in the next two years," Trinidad said.

The biggest collections of dolls are in the tableaux of three Philippine Festivals—16 dolls in the Sinturisan alone.

A group of tableaux is devoted to the entrepreneurial skills of Filipinos and another group to games Filipino children used to play, like palo sebo, patintero, jolo, takong-tinik and bunggo ng palayok.

There are also groups of tableaux for Filipino dances, costumes, families and even pastimes. One tableau shows a family playing sungka inside their home, while the mother prepares a meal.

Culture

"These traditions and customs make up our culture. And culture is what and who we are as a people," Trinidad said.

He said, unlike paintings, the small stuff found in museums, the collection, which runs three-dimensional art, was easier to appreciate.

"The museum should be an eye-opener. People sometimes disregard culture when it should be appreciated," he said.

The collection is also more attractive to children, who might be interested in seeing games their parents used to play, which are now quickly being overplayed by computer games and other pastimes involving minimal person-to-person interaction.

"This is putting life into what is just being read. These are traditions we no longer see today," Erasmo also said.

The museum was reopened by relocated to the City Sports Complex in April because the Kapitan Moy Building is currently being renovated. Its [illegible] Pilo.

Trinidad said the museum would be returned to the building later this year.

The city government is also planning to add to the doll collection.

"We still plan to expand the museum. There are other cultural practices we have not yet included. We want the museum to be a tourist attraction," Fernando said.

METROBRIEFS

Crime boss slain

AK-47 [illegible] crime boss was killed in a two-hour gunbattle with members of Parañaque City police [illegible] Friday. And after the smoke cleared, nine other members of the so-called Jamby crime gang were in police custody. City police chief Supt. Fernando Mendoza identified the lone fatality as the gun battle as Benjamin Ilda, a native of Bicol who reportedly led the Barrio Kalikasan kidnapping [illegible] for murder. The five [illegible] today on Sta. Ana, Pilar, Barangay San Friday, came on the heels of a [illegible] by [illegible] Mendoza's men [illegible] of the group, which police said had been involved in bank robberies, drug trafficking and kidnapping. Police [illegible] members of the Parañaque City police [illegible] Ringgold and Tactical Operations Group, and antidrug and [illegible] in the operation. Darryl Raboteado

Recruiter talks

THE MAYOR, Bureau of Immigration (BID) that attracted 37-year-old Jane Castro Pineda of Gonzales, Manila on overseas that she had been hiring people hoping to work in Saudi Arabia and Singapore. Police April Press Relations reported to been recruiting applicants for equipment construction and domestic jobs despite the lack of a license. Perez reportedly demanded ₱18,000 in payments for processing and placement fees. No [illegible] said. Tina E. Santos

AUV countdown

THE LTFRB Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board is giving qualified owners of urban utility vehicles (AUVs) up to Aug. 31 to convert their existing franchises to the [illegible] Transport Cooperative (Metro Cebu Express) or face sanctions. LTFRB chair Maria Elena Bautista said the AUV Express cooperative is at [illegible] and would be fully implemented Sept. 1. The agency will start sending the concerned firms to MR operations, and consolidate franchises to the [illegible]. Vanessa C. Dalizo

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Sunday BIZ
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espiritu

Entrepreneurship keeps Ramos family together

SECOND GEN: Sandie Ramos, business

THE FIRST generation builds the company. The second preserves it. The third squanders it.

According to some studies, beyond the third generation, there are fewer than 5 percent of family-owned businesses that survive under family control.

Conchamar Tan, author of "In the Unbound," an international bestseller published in many countries, has a more creative way to explain this phenomenon.

"The first generation makes the money and naturally wants to flaunt it. The second doesn't want more money. It wants power, from true money and power, the third generation dedicates itself to art, or more likely just squanders the fortune. The Kennedys, Rockefellers, and others illustrate this cycle," Tan wrote.

National Book Store founder Socorro C. Ramos, however, is confident that her family and their business of books, school and office supplies will strive by taking the same timeless track.

After all, as early as now, her grandchildren are proving that they are aware of the family commitments.

"Mas marunong pa nga sa akin ang mga apo ko eh, and I learn a lot from them. Halimbawa sa computers, they explain to me the benefits of computerizing. Medyo may komplikadong ilang operasyon akong alam pero ely nakapag-set-up of their own gagaling ng mga yan!" proudly says the characteristically humble Ramos. Nancy Coching, in her family and thousands of employees

Of the nine third-generation Ramoses, three are now directly involved in the business of books, all children of Nelson Coching's daughter, Estrella Lazarus.

Oro, the eldest, oversees the information technology aspects of NBS. Trina Lizares-Hooligan says that the company's human resources department needed a little help and this is what she is working on at present. Gabby, on the other hand, is the operations manager of Powerbooks Specialty Store.

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'Charm' offensive brings new hope to upland farmers

By Riza Feraldo
Contributor

SAGADA, PHILIPPINES—Gonzalo Eddy is 63 years old and has been working on the farm all his life. But the wrinkled-mustached ascetic part of the Cordillerian, a third generation farmer from Besao first, he has no regrets about his chosen field despite the many hardships he faced.

"I plant barley, then cabbage and carrots alternately throughout the year," he says. It's not enough to feed his family and he has had to seek additional work to be able to make ends meet. But considering he survived, raising his seven children through high school. Only one followed in his footsteps on the farm.

Those engaged in upland farming have a variety of problems compared to lowland farming, including cold weather, lack of water, less yield, more costs, a rugged topography and the distance it takes to transport goods from the farm to the market. Besao farmers have to travel for about seven to eleven hours, which hugely affects the farmers' produce less saleable on the local market.

Development activities also cost more and take more time and effort to consolidate in the highlands. The yield of rice is 50 percent less than in the lowlands, which yield about 3.5 tons per hectare. Access to market road in the highlands would raise this by a million pesos per kilometer; in the uplands, it is between P2.5 million to P5 million per kilometer.

Under the Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management (CHARM) project, farmers have doubled and sometimes tripled their earnings, thanks to irrigation schemes, new infrastructure such as bridges, farm-to-market roads, and training in new farming methods.

CHARM is a seven-year project that aims to reduce poverty in the Cordillera region by increasing agricultural productivity in farmlands through boosting agricultural profitability and developing sustainable systems of resource management. The Asian Development Bank financed almost half of the total project cost, initially estimated at P41.4 million when the project was approved in 1996.

So far, the project has benefited about 50,000 poor households in 82 villages in Abra, Mt. Province and Benguet provinces. other nearby villages are indirectly reaping benefits from the project as well.

"I would want to believe that doing it is a participatory exercise the way we did will really be the way to do projects rather than the 'diaspora type,'" says Cameron Dehon, project director of CHARM. "We really have to resolve the primary beneficiaries of the project, who are the farmers."

The communities, who are mostly indigenous people, were consulted and mobilized through out the project on issues such as managing natural resources. The idea is to involve them as stakeholders in the project and to be committed to its implementation from the planning stages up to its maintenance and upkeep, even after its completion.

With the project now in its final stages, it is being maintained by the beneficiaries themselves. Roads will have to be maintained by the local government, irrigation systems by the farmers-groups, and telecommunications by the municipalities.

The project has completed the rehabilitation of 161.28 km of farm-to-market roads, 44.63 meters of spillway, 95.4 meters of bridges, 20.8 km of concrete canals, and 1,000 meters of irrigation watering pipes.

New and rehabilitated irrigation systems have enabled farmers to harvest two or three times a year, instead of just once a year. In the Besao area alone, it has established a total of 4,360 hectares of plantations (i.e., reforestation, agro-forestry and silvicultural planting) while maintaining 6,150 hectares for protection and 430 hectares for agro-forestry.

For the local community, some of whom are deeply embedded in the indigenous tradition, the project marked the first time that they have been benefiting from a national government project of this scale.

Catherine Kibiang who owns a small store that own books an original farm in Agnid, Sagada, Mt. Province, notes the improvement in her community. Widowhood farms are planted with rice again as irrigation water is more available and distributed evenly," she says. "We thank the CHARM project for rehabilitating the irrigation system."

It is with CHARM's assistance that the first ancestral domain claim in the country was issued by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. To date, it has supported the issuance of certificate of ancestral domain titles to almost 140,000 hectares and the preparation of ancestral domain sustainable development and protection plans in six municipalities, thus improving land tenure in the project areas.

But the agricultural support service component, farmers underscore a four-month integrated pest management course on ways to properly use fertilizer, avoid the use of pesticides, and efforts on marketing benefits. The commitment to the population of friendly insects on the farm as well as the insects that can cause crop damage, by inculcating to farmers the proper use of pesticides, its harmful effects and alternative ways to control pests, they were able to reduce by 70 percent the use of chemical pesticide.

"The rice with pests goes on. There are emerging pests that evolve," says Odaro. "What would be critical is for the farmers to be able to understand these things and not rely on pesticides in the management and control of have pests and diseases. In the past, farmers immediately sprayed for pesticides without knowing whether an insect is indeed friendly or a pest."

Training was also continued on how to grow vegetables and what crops to plant. Beneath is a high yielding rice varieties for the uplands was undertaken to determine their potential as replacement for traditional varieties. While results were positive, these did not match farmers' expectations in terms of taste, post-harvest characteristics, and milling recovery as perceived by farmers.

The major problem now facing vegetable growers is the entry into the local market of cheaper imports. Locally grown vegetables are more costly and unable to meet with it's uniform size. In addition, as farmers' children are educated, their new skills lead them to activities other than those needed on the farms.

"We are encouraging them, say Ambebayan, to farm out own products," says Mary Bunsal, senior agriculturist of Mt. Province. "At least we are sure of site problems unlike the imports. We do not know their process of production is. They might contain too much pesticide. But at least if we buy our own, we know the processes that were done in the production of the product."

Kiyanol Odaro's feel on despite the numerous and various governmental challenges that they have faced by generations, that improvements to their way of life brought about by projects such as CHARM will help conserve the variety of centuries-old traditions for generations to come.

(The author is a national officer of the Asian Development Bank.)

CHILDREN alongside farmers high upon the mountains of Atok, Benguet, and the new farms to market bridge constructed in their area

A MOTHER and her young children walk along a farm-to-market road in Benguet

DOWNHILL! Kelly and the camel that irrigates his farm in Bagabag, Mt. Province

Entrepreneurship keeps Ramos family together

GABBY as a ten-wearing the shoe logo of National Bookstore

GABBY today is in charge of Powerbooks

TRINA, shares little girl with her kids

HANNY Coring, with Trina today, says she is her grandchildren's student

That's one old Trina shares the same built in their family as her dad.

A "testament" to the family business after being away for five years while earning an MBA from an Ivy League in the US. Trina was asked by her kids to come home to help. She did and immediately doubled down to work in 1989.

"I know that third generation saying will not happen to us. Our informal structure is built in such a way that not all grandchildren work at NBS. It largely depends on our interest, that's why everything falls into place. We have been armed through the years with the values that were instilled in us and we are confident about it," explains Trina.

Hanny Coring's other grandchildren are involved in the other ventures of the family, most of them in retail, like Crossings Department Store, Music One, Toby's, Tokyo, etc.

For Gabby, who grew up with all three "book talks" parents among family dinners and gatherings, being involved in the books have been accepted to be the most natural thing to do.

"I realized it's about time to give back to the family by continuing what my parents and grandparents have started," says the 36-year-old dedicated scholar and suite Beat De La Salle University.

Leadership by example

One thing that stuck in the young minds of both Trina and Gabby as children was how their grandmother lived the "leadership by example" principle.

Both of them would remember vividly how Nanay Coring would teach her older people the proper ways to act.

Nanay Coring would also personally fix merchandise in the book store, making sure that customers easily find what they are looking for.

In her up to now, Nanay Coring still proudly describes herself as a tindera (sales lady). In one interview, she embraced about the personal joy she gets from selling. "Bilanging gusto ng pasko ko yung pagtitinda," she said, "Kapag nagpabili ka ng ano mukhang nasaya yun. Pag binenta ng wrapping paper, sabi ko, sukat mo ng gaki mo." (Whenever I was in the season, I didn't mind being a vendor. I might have been studying to earn an MBA but I didn't mind working on the side and being right there on the cash register. I'll master the service level in the US is higher, and sales people there earn a lot, but it's really the experience, the day-to-day encounters I have with people that is treasured me. It is also where one learns to be humble," she describes.

Gabby, on the other hand, a amazed at the energy and dedication that his late relatives to this very day. At 82, Nanay Coring knows how many total employees are in NBS. Her memory is so good, she knows every single location of the 71 branches, paying them up per visit every now and then. ("De kung dami-dami ng store," she remarked.

She is still on top of daintime making when it comes to the books that will adorn the NBS shelves. It would be a disaster, Gabby says, if he does not show the same enthusiasm and devotion.

There is no one more proud than the expansion of the Year either but and long. Trina says she is as an touched at her lola's zeal for opportunity, something which she certainly wants to have.

"She always finds something to do something, young pagkakaiba. Like those postcards in National Book Store. That's her 'racket'," Trina reveals.

Gabby credits this leadership that Nanay Coring provides as the foundation of their survival as a family.

But it's not as if these NBS heirs consciously learned for the job. Nanay Coring inadvertently opened the eyes of her grandchildren by making the National Bookstore outlets and offices as their one, big "playground."

The other thing the NBS matriarch loves to pass on to her grandchildren is her ability to listen. To this day, Nanay Coring learns about what is happening in the NBS operations simply by listening to her people, evaluating them and making informed decisions. Through this, she says, she is able to point out the weaknesses of the operations.

Learning from her 'apos'

Nanay Coring's role in her grandchildren's lives, particularly Gabby's and Trina's, has gone beyond just being the doting, book-wielding grandma that she was when they were kids. She is also more than the bearer of the entrepreneurial blood. Closely today through the eyes of her grandchildren, their role has become both more mother and their student.

Many of the things that the grandkids had done for reference by for instance, is to computerize the inventory system. It was hard at first for Nanay Coring to do away with her old index card method of inventory but she did anyway.

Gabby, on the other hand, has his lola's marketing knife on always stepping in his turn ... mag-ano pa pala? Mag-marketing (di-ba)? Ganun naman. (Do not sleep.)

A big lesson to me but everyone in the family helps out.

"I tell them never to be complacent. Hindi pwede maalis ang business eh gaipon na yan lagi. Ingat sa mga learning ahead," says Nanay Coring.

One of the reasons that NBS recognizes as a patron tool to reach more people is the Manila International Book Fair which they are a participant of, the biggest participant in fact. Every year, a mini National Book Store and a mini Powerbooks are transported to the World Trade Center to give people a glimpse of what they have to offer.

This year, the annual Book Fair, organized by Nomenclade Asia, is slated on Aug. 31 to Sept. 4 and will bring together book sellers, local and foreign publishers, wholesalers, retailers, book lovers and collectors, librarians, authors, publishers' representatives, and every major player in the publishing industry in its one, coming together to promote books and reading.

In its 21 years, the MIBF has been instrumental in promoting books and literacy by giving publishers a venue to discuss and develop book trades, promote new titles and authors, and improve the quality of published works.

"We just have to be there because we are on the forefront of the industry and we have advocacies to tell the people inside, of course, that the books that are sold," says the young mother of two, who named her daughter Marina Soreya.

Indeed, from the looks of it, Nanay Coring has already found a successor to carry on after the next generation of NBS will have something to inherit ... themselves.

For details about the Manila International Book Fair, call 897-0611 or 895-8161, or e-mail booksfair@primeworldcom.com.

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Sunday BIZ

Masferré Souvenir

Cashing in on photographs that preserve history

By Donna Domeniko
INQUIRER Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—While history is pressed between the pages of a book, the tradition and daily lives of ancient Cordilleran have been preserved in trusty bags, shirts, and throw pillows.

These images were captured by the late Cordillera photographer Eduardo Masferre and transformed into wearable and usable items by his daughter under the trade name "Masferre."

Since then, Masferre's daughter and owner of the Masferre Souvenir Shop here, says the images have taught her priceless lessons in appreciating the simple life.

"You buy not just the shirt [and other items], but you also learn to appreciate simple and ordinary things. These help Pinoys to think. Pinoy talaga [indeed]," she says.

Also over the years up to a house where late Masferre's framed photographs hang on every wall of their living room.

She says that never really appreciated those priceless photographs until the day she asked her father to buy her a toy. That request was prompted by her envy of the new toys that her playmates had then.

Masferre, she says, asked her to sit down and listen to a story of two Igorot boys playing with a piece of wood.

Masferre then showed how a person he had taken of the boys who were fanning over a mortar while rousing the wood over the brim of a mortar and pestle(ing it was a Dangwa bus running along winding mountain road.

She says her envy of her playmates' toys disappeared as she looked at the toys, those boys turned to the camera, happily playing with their "little Dangwa bus."

It was then that she realized that happiness could be derived from simple things and a simple life.

She says this story made her born in inspiring her father's focus on simplicity and content, until to its many people in particular through Masferre's photographs.

Starting small

Also started small, with little money and no roving machines of her own in 1988.

She would buy ready-to-wear shirts where her father's photographs would be silk-screened. The shirts wrapped, a small corner of her shop in Shoppers' Lane were where she also sold trinkets, too.

In 1990, she opened another shop in Ferguson Road here and started retailing her Masferre products in her mother's inn in Sagada, Mt. Province, where they maintained a souvenir section for tourists.

By then, she had started making Masferre bags crafted from canvas cloth.

Also says it was only in 1997 that she was able to pool enough money to buy two used sewing machines to make her own shirts to carry her father's photographs.

By 2000, she bought another three used sewing machines and hired three workers to make the bags.

Full blast production started at her house in Irisan (Central Assistancia) in Tuesday, Benguet. At this her hired production area, Also said her mother prides her the technique of silk-screening Masferre's photos on various types of fabric.

Also even employs nine sewers working on machines.

She says she would soon hire additional workers and buy more sewing machines when they don't repeating the Masferre items in the United States and Europe since this year.

She says they are starting to produce bags for the international market and are planning to produce shirts for children ages 3 to 6.

Also says have shop at SM City Baguio where the Masferre bags and shirts soon be for at least P1,000 a day.

Her souvenir shop in Ambiong was also recognized by the Department of Trade and Industry as one of the top tourist shops in the region.

Also says she sees only 20 of her father's photographs in the items' designs.

At least 12 styles of bags are available for the local market. Also says they are creating distinctive styles for the items that they would export.

Masferre legacy

Masferre was born on April 18, 1909 in Sagada to Isidro Masferré, a Spanish soldier from Catalonia, Spain, and local lass Bernardita Gaerlan Longkiten.

He started to photograph stained during his teenage years. While teaching at St. Mary's School in Sagada, he took photography as a hobby.

Masferre bought his first camera in 1931 by mail order from Kodak in the United States.

He learned to print films and used his toilet as a makeshift studio and darkroom. He also made his own developing trays and a solar enlarger, and even tried to make his own camera.

Masferre's photographs featured the daily activities of his brother's people. The images showed them going about their chores or their traditional clothing—the men in their bird penis and G-strings and the women wearing only a woven cloth, called the tapis, wrapped around their waists.

From 1930 to 1950, Masferre went around Mt. Province and Kalinga to document the culture and lives of tribes there. Masferre immersed himself with Cordillera's communities to understand their culture.

His photographs were published in Impact, Weekly, Coppers, de Sito, Cebu, Liwayway and Bicolandia. These also toured Brussels, Tokyo, the United States, England and other parts of Europe.

Recently, a group of photographers in the Philippines started gathering signatures to push Masferre's recognition as a national artist. Masferre died in 1995 at the age of 86.

SALESLADY Julie Pawilen modeling the shoulder bag "Dapia". (Her name came from their relatives shop owner in their hometown in Mt. Province) at the Baguio branch

WHERE? souvenir shop located on the 3rd floor, SM Baguio City

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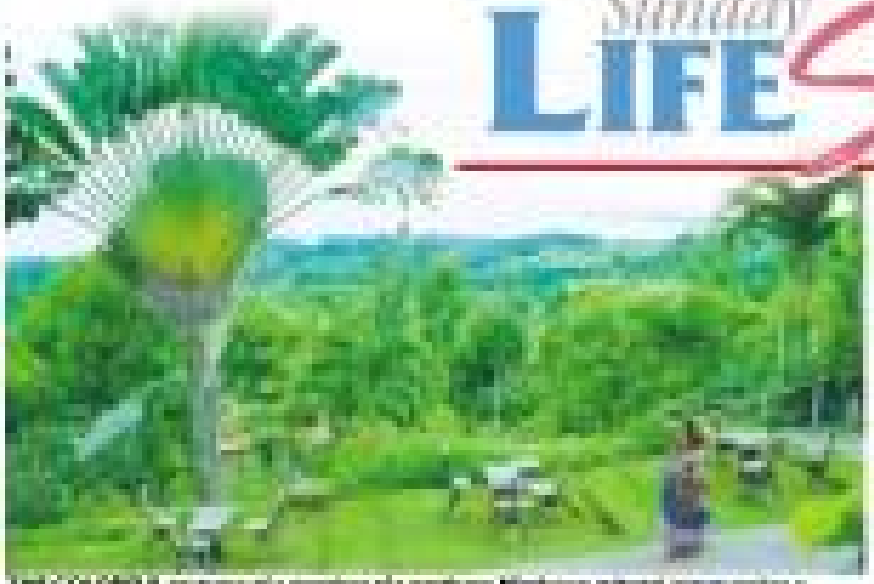

THE COLORFUL costumes of a member of a northern Mindanao cultural group make a striking contrast to the lush greenery and calm, clear waters beyond.

SM CITY's Super market gives pride of place to Mindanao produce like fresh pineapples, pomelos, pandan and nata.

DOLE Manila Philippines' new exhibit "museum" displays some of the world's different pineapple varieties.

LIFESTYLE GOES TO CAGAYAN DE ORO

Mindanao's own gold coast

Text by Linda B. Bolilia
Photos by Rudy Esparas

THE CAPITAL of Misamis Oriental, Cagayan de Oro sits on the northern coast of Mindanao and prides itself as the City of Golden Friendship.

Though its name is identical to that of a northern province, the two places seem to

The City of Golden Friendship is the gateway to many of the south's major attractions

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Mindanao's own gold coast

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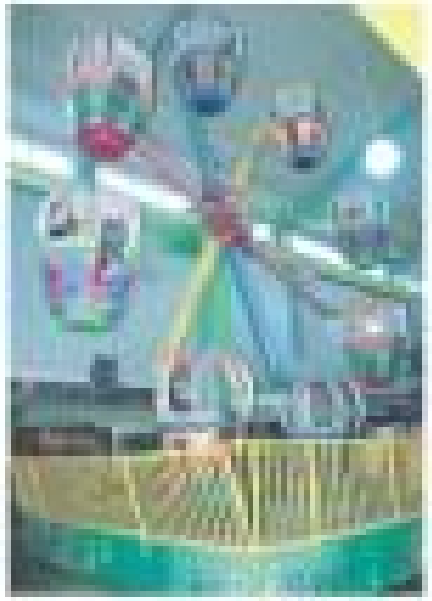


SM CDO in different parts of SM City give parents a respite from energetic young kids

From page H-1

from coins spun their names via different routes. Cagayan Province reportedly got its name from the Tagalog word cagayan or big river. On the other hand, historical accounts have two versions of how Cagayan de Oro got its name.

Tomasa G. Pacana, chair of the city's historical commission, says, before the arrival of the Spaniards in 1521, the place was known as Kalaitingalahan, which was also the name of the river that has since been renamed Cagayan. Presumably the name was derived from the Tagalog word that means to overflowing.

According to Pacana, pre-war folks said the name Cagayan was derived from sagayan, an old verse Bukidnon word that means to take the river's wide curve hands on with a piece of wood. The word also means mola-gola used from the trees or vines taken from the hillside or streams.

And gold was reportedly one of those things one could take from the river and other places in what would become Cagayan de Oro. Panoon says gold has always been abundant in the Cagayan River, and the precious metal is still found in several places in the city and nearby areas.

Another version gives the city's name a more romantic origin. In this alternative "Misray" a young prince fell for the daughter of his father's enemy who ruled on the other side of the river separated from them. When the prince decided to marry the princess despite the enmity between their families, the father reportedly left their old settlements by the river, vowing never to return to what he would call kagaw-an—to Bukidnon, a place of shame.

Cagayan de Oro got its charter as a city in 1950 by virtue of Republic Act No. 521 signed by then President Elpidio Quirino. The charter was sponsored by then Congressman Emmanuel Pelaez, who would later become Vice President of the Philippines.

Gateway

The city owes before the arrival of the Spaniards had always been the gateway to inner parts of northern Mindanao. In the early 20 years are the main access to Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, Bukidnon, the inland province of Camiguin and other points in between and around them.

But a curious trend has made to be or her main destination upon arrival in Cagayan de Oro. The city has its share of attractions that should keep a visitor occupied for a day or two, or even a few weeks, as many foreigners who discover the Malaysia Tourism Village and Gardens end up doing. The village features some of the cultural communities in the region, a small winery and an interesting trekking path, among others.

Cagayan de Oro also has caves and waterfalls and an adventure park. The city has a white water rafting course that is navigable year round. The few adventurous can always opt for the beaches or a few rounds of golf. For a more spiritual journey, there is a route by Bukidnon with the new and old churches in the sprawling monastery of the Benedictine Order, which is also known for its Monk's Blend coffee. Along the way is the Del Monte pineapple plantation and canning factory, which recently launched new cooking and baking products.

Trading post

As gateway to northern Mindanao, Cagayan de Oro is reliably become a major trading center, a position that fired the locals' entrepreneurial spirit. The Del Monte Pineapple plantation and its erstwhile competitors economically planted the seeds that became fiera, a family-owned business venture whose flagship product and a popular "pasalubong" purchase of one of town visitors, the smoked ham, was adapted from a favorite of the Americans in the canning factory.

The Rosemoor Bakery, Inc., using German technology and city imported from Europe, produces export-quality handmade pastry pieces while the Northern Mindanao Federation of Dairy Cooperatives, operated by a Dutch consultant, is the only one in the Philippines that produces potable cheese. It also has other dairy products. Under the label Highland Fresh, Bill Dairy, a cooperative member, also produces milk and pastries.

The arrival of SM City Cagayan de Oro some three years ago helped to further strengthen the city's position as a commercial hub, drawing people from as far as Surigao and Misamis Occidental.

S. S. Albertini Uertani Aerospace, for instance, opened her Wing Aerospace Collections at the SM City offering authentic Albanian personal and home accessories, as well as commissioned items through Cagayan de Oro has a very small Muslim population compared to some of its neighbors, but Aerospace says she is doing brisk business with Moroccans and overseas, even people coming from abroad as researching all the world wide-overseas.

Merry ends

As in other places where it has opened, the SM City business district "farm" has also provided visitors a tantalizing glimpse of what its host has to offer. Its success are a merry mix of regular SM stores from both ends with, as well as homegrown enterprises that demonstrate that there is a lot of innovativeness, creativity and good business sense in Cagayan de Oro.

The superstructure of the 5.9-ha SM City along Pr. Masterpiece center from Villa Street showcases Mindanao's finest produce and other local products, while local brand restaurants like the Rodeo Cafe Chef offers Kuya Wow home dishes, Mandarin Tea House and Bigby's, which has now branched out of Mindanao, offer refreshing new adventures for the taste buds.

Cabin Crafts delights with its pricey and numerous hand-made décor and accessories with flowers and items for country lovers, while Oro Leather Crafts blends antique northern pottery skills and the art of modern homemaking.

'Pasalubong' from CDO

Text by Margie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Boots Espero

FREQUENT travelers to Cagayan de Oro know exactly what the city is famous for in terms of what to bring home to family and friends.

It's homemade pasalubong to be.

We never leave CDO without a bag or two of the famous Lanson de Cagayan Sans Rival Cake or white cream Del Rio Brownie. The smoked ground ham is also very popular pasalubong from the town.

"It's been there decades now since we first introduced the ham, and people still patronize our products," says chocolatier Lydia Pelayo Mejia, president of Rizal Commercial Inc. and daughter of Edy Pelayo, the founder of Del's.

Mejia, one version of the names of Edy's children (Delora, Leila, Earl, Del) and Rizal, created as a

SEE ALSO: Fresh milk

processed culinary endeavor in 1969, when Edy learned to process smoked country ham in her home in Bel Monte, Bukidnon. Her husband worked for the then American-owned Del Monte Plant in Bukidnon. As a housewife, she'd always wanted to create her own dishes and recipes for the family.

The ham eventually became popular among family and friends, which led to its early home.

Later, word spread about it, so when started to a small hobby became a cottage industry and later a family corporation, which also sold the ham in Cagayan de Oro, Iligan City and now in Misamis Occidental to Manila.

Aside from producing quality foods, Del's is also involved in food education. It is a leading advocate for the adoption of food safety and quality assessment procedures by the food industry in the Philippines. It is the first to provide the public with seminars and workshops to encourage processed hygienic and safe food preparation.

Del's also benchmarked its packaging with foreign food products and invested in a modern packaging machine. The line established the food processor as pioneer in using retort pouch packaging technology in the country.

Retort pouch packaging is a sterilization process that involves filling food into a pouch, sealing it and then heating it to a high temperature to kill any microorganisms that may cause spoilage.

SLIDE processed meat includes ham, bacon and smoked pork ribs

Del's processed meat includes quality and packaging comparable to imported products.

Aside from smoked hams in Cagayan, which is sold for P400/kg, Del's also sells other processed meat products such as longganisa de Cagayan (P120-400 g), sucso (P80-400 g), smoked country ham (P120-400 g), and smoked pork ribs (P110/400 g).

Del's fresh milk (400 ml, P55/L), is also on sale.

Sweet and scenic

On the busy corner of JR Borja extension, the Bel Monte factory complex, where mechanized sterilization of milk and fresh milk packaging are being held, is also a popular tourist destination.

Fresh milk is also newly packed in transparent plastic.

Bel Monte, with an area of 1,000 hectares, is owned by husband and wife team Rizal and Bing Mejia. The couple owns a ranch in Libona, Bukidnon, where the fresh milk comes from.

"We do the milking morning and afternoon and produce about 400 liters a day," says Bing. "But we make the pasteurization of the milk every day, since we couldn't sell the milk fresh overnight to customers."

From the raw milk in the farm, the pure milk is brought to the Mejia's house and stored in a room.

"We simply add the pure milk with sugar and let it evaporate and get the solid part," explains Bing.

The pasalubong de leche is being sold at P80 a pack under the brand name Highland Milk.

E-mail the author at cbaga@inquirer.com.ph

IN CEREMONIAL feasts, members of Higaonon and Bukidnon cultural groups perform a bird dance every April at the shores of Malasag Eco-cultural Village.

TRAVELER gazes at scholars' vast area. Beyond is an amusement village.

Heavenly gardens

HANGING swaying bridge for the adventurous

By Marianne Go
Photos by Rudy Esparas

"HEAVENLY" was how a guest from Germany described his wandering stay at the Malasag Eco-Cultural Village and Gardens in Cagayan de Oro. He was actually one of several foreigners who discovered the mountain hideaway and just had to stay for several days to enjoy nature's sights and sounds.

No one has during our recent visit to the village. We were jogging by his bright, one of 28 temple cottages on the sprawling hills that form the picturesque Macajalar Bay.

The cottages are made of native stone, mahogany, teak, nipa grass and other locally sourced wood. They mimic, however, except for the indigenous sailing vessels, are harmonized into heritage-rich cultures and ethnicities. We had expected fitting names like sinagpang, malayan and other native symbols that abounded in the area.

Modern conveniences in these cottages are shown to the most basic items like bed, chairs, tables and toilet. There are television set, radio or newspaper delivery.

"Capturing the artistic spirit of Northern Mindanao's tribal cultural and rich flora and fauna to usher the Malasag village was envisioned when it was opened to the public sometime in 1997," our guide, Ben Estacio Jr., explained to us at the start of our trek to the sprawling realty. Ben chipped and climbed through the forested mountainside village.

Earlier, Ombo described to us the ceremonial welcome dance that greeted us at the entrance of the village. Dressed in full ceremonial finery, the dancers performed the exquisite steps of "Binanog", a bird dance. They're members of the tribal families that reside and work in the village. They live in tribal houses called the Salaysay and the Higaonon, where they demonstrate to visitors their art of weaving, basket making and wood carving.

"The cultural village is also a botanical garden. It is designed as a living museum that serves as a breeding station and display of ecotourism, ethnic arts, native flora. There's also a commercial shop of local products so that guests are revenue and livelihood for the tribal groups," Ombo said. Also in the village are the Talaandig, Matigsalog, Manobo and Bagobo.

Panoramic view

Tall trees, terraced over ground-hugging plants that made for the floral cover of the lush Malasag Hills. As we trekked along the rolling terrain, we identified the familiar trees along tiling, champaca, ampalaya trees, teak, kapok and more.

At the end of the winding path she had with natural displays of orchids called Sampaguita, the botany of Philippine birds. Its doubt used to visitors, a tunnel even to take after us. But the bigger birds, hornbill and bird-like, didn't pay any attention to us, obviously because food.

Malasag tries to capture the ethnic spirit of Northern Mindanao's cultural communities and showcase its rich flora and fauna

GUEST cottages do not have telephones, televisions and other modern-day distractions, making them perfect getaways.

Back on the land, we passed the visitors' view deck where exotic favorites point toward the panoramic view of the bay. "On clear nights, lights on the city's coast line are visible, and so are the spectacular stars in the sky," Ombo said.

At the end of the trek was a pond walkway with a pergola that was covered with trailing green vines that were filled with white flowers. The structure, built a few years, the pond and ashes salvaged by the uphill downhill trek around Malasag Ecocultural Village.

Other features of the village are the camp ground, swimming pool, picnic shed, orchidarium, fruit garden, native restaurant, butterfly garden and multi-purpose hall.

The resort is only 20 minutes away from the city where there are vehicles—jeepneys, vans, and motorcycles called Angkol Angkol—that are available for transport to Malasag.

For information on how to get there, call the office at (088) 8558181.

World of pineapples

By Marinella V. Green
Photos by Rudy Esparas

WHO WANT at Del Monte Plantation in Bukidnon is a sweep-away patch of ground surrounded by the vast acres of land planted with millions of the two-spiced pineapples for which used for the factory-canned fruits and juice.

It may be just a patch of ground, but like a where 30 different kinds of interesting pineapple fruits all over the world are grown. They come in various sizes and colors, and their names are just as fascinating.

Take, for example, the wild pineapple, Ananas bracteatus, the variety from Brazil, and another wild species called Ananas comosus var. Bracteatus—the variegated pineapple, Red Spanish, can be found. It is the source of fibre for the pina cloth, a favorite material for making Barong, shawls and gowns.

This World is found at the visitor's center where open to the public. On one corner are, in specially plastic pots, seedlings ready to leave for our guide plant breeder Ney Pascual. Prior to his move to Del Monte, he was involved in the breeding program of golden variety fruits or (pineapples). In fact, most of the beautiful shrubs and bushes in Philippine gardens are Pascual's creations.

Right now Pascual is in charge of pineapple breeding experiments. The challenge, he says, is exciting. In private life, he enjoys garden plants around his cottage in Camp Phillips.

"The climate here is perfect for growing houseplants, the ornamental kind of pineapple. This is a place where you can find some of the beautiful houseplants in the country. Unfortunately, there is an anti-theft campaign

PINEAPPLE pickers clean the fruits before they are brought to processing areas.

Del Monte keeps an instructive showcase of various varieties in the world of the plant with many eyes

that focus on outdoors to get rid of broomsticks in our gardens," he said.

Bromeliad leaves, arranged in a top-like shape, collect laundry in a favorite breeding ground of mosquitoes.

By the way, the Del Monte plantation has been in Bukidnon since 1926. It was because a perfect site for growing pineapples—two pineapples, no doubt because of the favorable climate, water quality and fertile land.

Night soon, the sweet pineapples are harvested every day from early morning to 10 p.m. A total of 120 trucks transport the harvest to the various production areas, which include fresh fruit slices up for the market.

A HAND-PAINTED Cebu Craft stool still has a pretty creature for thing-loving cat of sight.

Three shops, countless treasures

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Rudy Espino

GO SPACE Cebu Ear Brow Craft, a wood-and-pottery-making skills from Pangasinan and Pampanga, makes home decorative items for southern clients.

SUSAN H. Basanes, owner of Cebu Craft, with her son.

H. S. ERAMINA Usman Antonyo's Ming Antique Collections carries ceremonial items for Moroccan events.

HAND-PAINTED trash cans for pretty by

CBO Ear Brow Craft's complements in furniture pieces mimics new patterns.

Pangasinan and Pampanga, brought the skills he learned in the north to Cagayan de Oro. His Cebu Ear Brow Craft is not only a showcase of well-crafted ceramic pieces, but also of furniture newly discovered that he uses for his day-to-day activities in ceramic trends. Her antique pieces are mainly from one

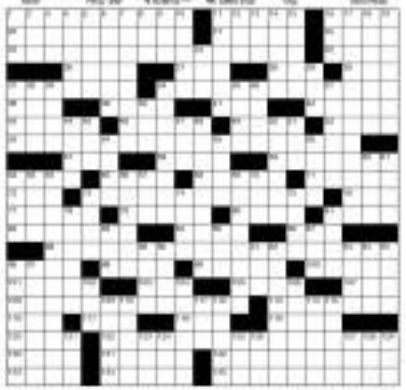
BRASS pieces at Ming Antiques Collections

JUGLOGANT lamp's ceramic jar base features a design from one that is cultural pieces.

Wooden picture frames at Cebu are made by Basanes's husband, Bernard.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — FITTING FOOD



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Sunday LIFESTYLE

A STUDIED wooden cabinet in the family room is a remnant of the pair's stint in the hardware business.

Precious flights of fancy and function

The 3-story residence of a publishing pair combines antique and contemporary motifs

Text by Alice T. Vergara
Photos by August de la Cruz

LIVING in a townhouse offers certain advantages, but partners Richard Reynaste and Jun Mendez can't imagine themselves ever giving back to one after experiencing life in a big house.

The pair of book publishers (apart from publishing romance novels and children's titles are the Precious Pages, they also run a chain of bookstores that got by the same name) traveled a much bigger home as it relocated to Quezon City five years ago.

"Not only did we find townhouse living too cramped," says Reynaste, vice president of Precious Pages and creative manager of production at ABS-CBN, "it offered very little privacy. We simply seemed more space to work around in."

Anyone or they got the chance, the two set to work to building their dream home. Reynaste, who also dabbles in furniture designing (they used to own Segunda Furniture), provided most of the creative inputs.

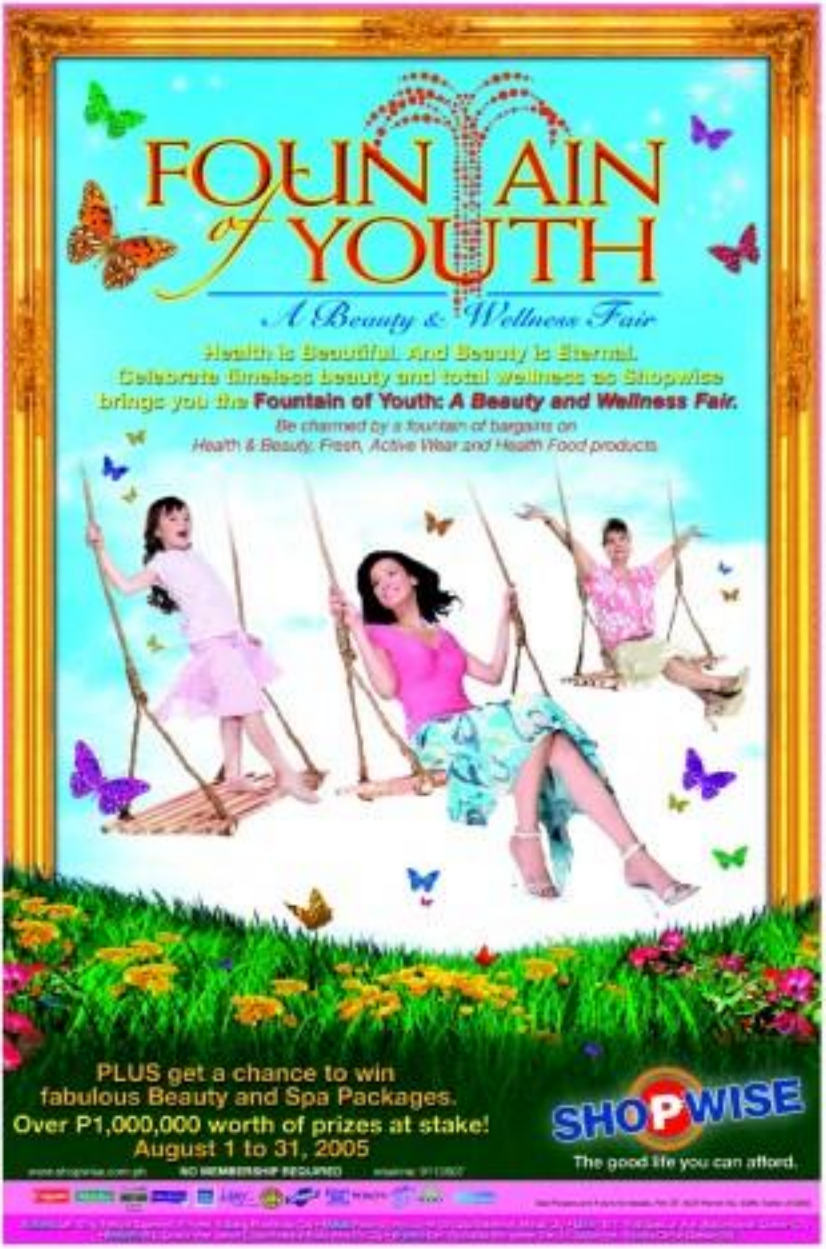
"I immensely enjoyed the furniture business," he says. "It was our obsession, running, however, that I had to give it up in favor of our publishing company. Segunda is still around under new management."

The pair didn't, unintentionally set out to design and make furniture, but readers and magpies in the first place, Mendez says. Reynaste never satisfied with what was available in the market then, he began designing his own pieces. A small team of craftsmen did the manufacturing for him.

"Our friends were all looking some to our house," he says. "They also wanted the same pieces for themselves so we accommodated them. One request led to another and before long we found ourselves operating a full-scale furniture business."

Form and function

Mendez, president of Precious Pages and considered the more practical of the two, sometimes tempers his partner's flights of



HUGE windows allow the light in and tempper the living room's dark mood.

A PAINTING reminiscent of a Gauguin by Annelouise is actually a kitchen.

Precious flights of fancy and function

From page C6

fancy. If form is Reynante's department, function is Marian' turf.

In lieu of another sofa, which Reynante initially favored, the latter, Marian insisted that a daybed be placed in a sitting area that opens into the garden. Such a move does make sense. With a daybed, they and their guests can watch the day go either muted or lying down.

Their Filipino-inspired dwelling has eclectic touches of Orientalia, and comes with a pool-cum-shed garden that features, among others, a koi pond and several stone statues. The property's easy-to-install by-Ayala-Alabang chandelier, but its owners have been able to friendly this above such a limitation by building a three-story terrace.

What it lacks in space, the high-ceilinged living room with huge windows makes up for height. Reynante's penchant for prints and texture is evident for all to see on the first floor.

The eclectic mix of contemporary and antique furniture pieces are either carved or padded and covered in printed upholstery. Dark, matte walls contrast as well as echo the neutrals evoked by shiny Vigan tiles.

Their mestizo-like may be a tad different when it comes to home furnishing, but both Reynante and Marian share a love for artworks. Apart from their portraits done by Galvez, the two are proud owners of paintings by Antonino, Blanco, Sudrio, Hidalgo, Enriquez, Ermilo and Amorsolo. They also have an Olmedo, Maldicas and several Ruiz-Lopez.

'Dirt-poor'

The stairwell leading to the third floor doubles as a gallery for most of their paintings. Thanks to Reynante's US-based brother-in-law, a friend of the bedroom wall was installed by a group of chicken Americans for a bought.

The brother-in-law took pictures of the pair's house while vacationing in the Philippines some years back. When he showed his snapshots to his friends in the US, they couldn't believe their eyes. No Filipino could be this "rich," they said.

"They thought all of us are dirt-poor," says Reynante, with a hearty laugh. "That's why

EAST meets West in the garden, which features a koi pond and stone statues.

RUSTIC and modern touches exist in the library (inset) a bidet provides both convenience and a modern twist to the library, which also doubles as the owners' home office.

A STAIRWELL leading to the third floor doubles as an art gallery for the couple's many artworks.

A PAIR of portraits by Galvez

they were decided to find out for sure. Guilty. My naughty brother-in-law, who happily played along, didn't bother to correct them."

Over the years, the partners have made a number of home improvements, the most recent of which involves turning a rustic, open-air deck into an enclosed and air-conditioned area housing the library and an adjoining family room.

Good thing Reynante scrapped his idea of installing a mini theater on the third floor, as the family room has become a favorite venue for both their families whenever they visit during long weekends.

"Who needs thought, Ate and I agreed that we don't need a mini cinema," says Reynante. "Our bedroom TV is enough. What we really needed was a place big enough to unwind with friends and loved ones."

In contrast to the first and second floors, the third floor doesn't have much color and texture. The family room, for one, is a white, boxy affair made primarily of "homogenized" granite.

Apart from the streamlined furniture pieces, texture is confined to the ceiling look, issued from recycled wood. Asian touches are still very much evident in the form of Chinese and Vietnamese figurines.

The library, with its series of niches to store the pair's numerous books and magazines, is equally streamlined and eclectic. A stainless-steel ladder for those hard-to-reach books provides the room with a contemporary feel.

Like most parts of the house, the third floor comes with huge windows with Venetian blinds. True (and none) to definitely one has say the couple didn't enjoy chatting their naked days in a moonbeam.

E-mail the author at [email] *com.ph*

GARDEN'S low-water features

DINING table for two.

BRIGHT, simple and functional—three adjectives that best describe the family room.

SPRAWLING sofa adds hint of colors to the mostly all-white family room.

RICHARD and Rachel at the altar with their parents Ramon and Annabel Corrales, and Lina Gruppetta and Mike Dobson

NEWLYWEDS Richard Sturm Gruppetta and Rachel Elena Corrales

An international wedding

By Yen Montalvan Agoada
Contributor

The wedding of Pilita's niece draws guests from different parts of the globe

THE WEDDING at the Fountain in de Jose Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati, of Richard Sturm Gruppetta and Rachel Anne Corrales was an international event.

The Americano-born bride has Filipino parents, while the groom is Maltese but raised in Australia. Guests came from the United States, Australia, Japan, England and South Africa.

The couple met in Tokyo, Japan, where they are both working. He is head for market research at a Fortune 10 global consumer products organization. She is a senior human resource specialist for a global investment bank.

The groom is the son of Lina Gruppetta and Mike Dobson of Australia. His bride is the sister of Ivee daughter of Dr. Ramon Corrales and the former Annabel Montelibano, who were from Cebu and Lapu-Lapu de Oro City. The Corrales family now lives in Reston, USA.

Fr. Mateo O'Donnell, S.J., long time friend of the Corrales family and who knew the bride since she was a child, officiated at the wedding ceremony.

Corrales, in eclectic strapless gown with tie & dye silhouette by Katrina Confessora Jivan, walked down the aisle to the Irving Mendoza rendition of Andrew's "Sea Music" and was met halfway by her father.

Unusual

The gown was an unusual combination of duchess satin and Silk Gazaar's (the Scotland shop) own handwoven abaca striped silk, draped across the empire bodice and along the detachable long train, embellished with pearls and Swarovski crystal beads. Beading is famous in the bordado.

The nine members of the entourage wore exactly the same dresses. The gowns, with different necklines, consisted of bias taffeta. The maid of honor wore a single-strap gown of the same matte silk with a teal appliqué. The flag bearer wore knee-length pants, vest and cutaway to complement the groomsmen's attire. Photographs were taken by Mendiola Gregorio.

Principal sponsors were Carlos Lopez and Pilita Corrales, and Edwin and Rosa (nee Corrales) Ilejay.

The wedding entourage consisted of best man Kazuo Kamimura, the groom's best friend; maid of honor Anna Lisa Corrales, the bride's younger sister; groomsmen Aaron Baker, Steven Pittelkow and Billy Mitchell; and bridesmaids Ash Gokiat, Katrina Goulbourne-Price and Jadeline Blanco.

Six-year-old Kilggy Ilejay was ring bearer, while five-year-old Winona Tudtud was flower girl. Secondary sponsors were Flerida Hernandez and Belinda Miranda, candle; Sharon Gruppetta-Moreno and James Pittelkow, veil; and Cristina Sison Lord and Noel Hipolito, cord.

Buffet and sit-down dinner

Reception was held at the mezzanine of the Manila Polo Club. Guests initially enjoyed an after-noon buffet of yakisoba, two kinds of pasta, and gazebo with wine. It is followed by a sit-down dinner of grilled tapa-tapa, a salad of assorted greens, chicken ala pobre and citrus sorbet in between, capped by a medley of desserts, coffee, tea and cheese, with red and white wine and champagne.

The three-tiered pink and gold fondant cake was created by Bibie Bautista of Classic Confections.

At the reception, the father of the bride honored the groom's parents with an Indian song, the three introduced his sister Pilita Corrales as "Asia's Queen of Songs," who rendered three songs.

Guests later danced to Latin music from the Guaranteed.

The couple's wedding symbol was the Chinese "double happiness," synonymous with luck and good fortune. Guests got an unique candle bookmark designed by the newlyweds. With a base covered from cardboard, it consisted of Philippine pearls and a jade straw with a tassel at the end. It specially handcrafted many blue bow made of silk with Oriental design held the bookmark.

The newlyweds honeymooned in Amanpulo in the Palawan before returning to Tokyo.

THE RINGS and groom with their entourage: bridesmaids Ash Gokiat, Katrina Goulbourne-Price and Jadeline Blanco; maid of honor Anna Lisa Corrales; best man Kazuo Kamimura; groomsmen Jamie Baker, Jason Pittelkow and Billy Mitchell; ring bearer Miggy Jimenez; and flower girl Winona Quinones

FATHER of the bride Ramon Corrales dances the salsa with daughter Anna-Lisa, cousin Luisa Puente and bridesmaid Ash Gokiat

PRINCIPAL sponsors Carlos Lopez and Pilita Corrales walk down the aisle.

MIGGY Jimenez plays the role as ring bearer excitedly

Grand wedding in Andalusia

WED in Sevilla, Nancy Barbas and Jose Maria Lozada

RIDE members Maria Gonzalez y Quintia and Ana Garcia Marquina de Tudtud

BUENOS of José María Lozada in Cebu are happy to know that he recently got married in Sevilla, capital of the autonomous region of Andalucía in Spain. His bride is Vanessa Arellano, pretty daughter of banker Juan Manuel Barbas and Ana García Márquez de Barbas. They both belong to very prominent families in the area.

José María is the scion of an equally renowned family. His father is Manuel Lozada de la Cuesta who is the son of Don Bernardo and Doña Carolina, count and countess of Bogasa. They are also viscount and viscountess of Guadalupe. Both titles have been in their family for centuries.

José María's mother is Myrna González y Quintia, a granddaughter of the late President Sergio Osmeña Sr., Cebu's most revered statesman. She resides in Cebu and for this reason travelled to Sevilla to stand in her son's "madrina." Her forte of crystal-embossed arts, made by Myrna Cebreros, drew much admiration.

Myrna was accompanied by her youngest daughter Emmanuelle Lozada Pitlo, Paolo Mangaoang's, who also resides in Cebu. The other children are all in Spain: Ben Lozada, married by her fiancée Pepe Garcia, and Ramón Lozada with his wife Carolina. Ramón and Carolina reside in Sevilla and both are the family's regular cultural envoys.

The morning wedding was held at the historic church of San Antonio Abad in the chapel of El Divino del Silencio, to which the Tudtud family is deeply devoted. The reception was at the Palacio de Almonaid, favorite venue for Moorish parties.

Cocktails and tapas were served before the formal luncheon, which took place when it was time in the afternoon. It goes without saying that the celebration went on well into the evening, with dancing and much merry-making. And when in Sevilla, what else do you but dance Sevillanas? (DD)

Myrna and Emmanuelle returned to Cebu with pleasing reports on the splendid occasion. First prize in adding flavor to the newlyweds' honeymoon trip was included Cebu in their honeymoon itinerary. They have many relatives and friends here.

Cebu Cebu

Jaime Pacenzuela

Fabulous food

We realize the passing of time when we see friends' children, like those above, get married, and when they assume important executive posts. Like Dorthe Carstens, daughter of Topper and Evelyn (née Nery) Carstens. She is now in charge of the Kitchen Division at Power Global. Read that as Mido, a highly-capable friend.

Dorthe came to Cebu with Gaia Mercado, Rocco Nobel store manager, and asked Bishop Lucio to take them out and cook some of her fabulous recipes using Mido staple meat. They chose the kitchen of Shantrel Mendiola.

Convinced that the Mido sirloin steak was the best thing one could hand to charcoal broil, food was the following ladies who attended:

Susan Ortiz Gonzalez, Annabelle Lee Tan, Annie Mendiola, Bernadette Gallego, Fabi Alegrado, Lisa Nemeño, Minnie Dumolin, Nagaiko Kobayashi, Pilar Sevagam, Susie Bibine, Fonti Torres and Shantrel Sumerone, who, with Mary Anne Arnedo, made a beautiful scrapage of the event for Gaudioso Ceroy, the gloves was distributed to residents of Cebu's prime residences.—Maria Luisa Estate Park.

BRIDE's Gloria Carstens and daughter Dorthe

A FUTURE mom and his concerns, Bernie and Carmen Lizada